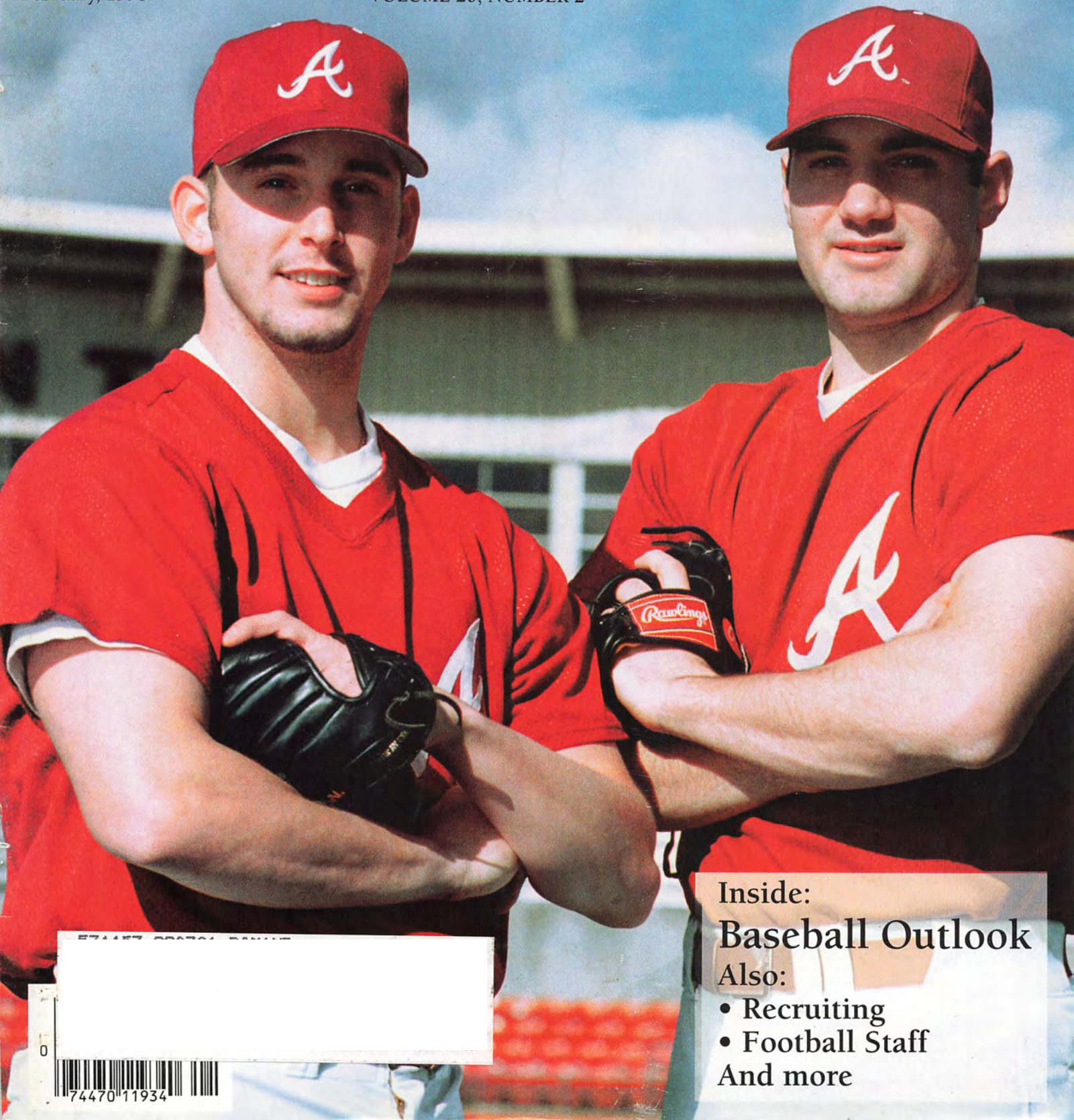


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February, 1998

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 2



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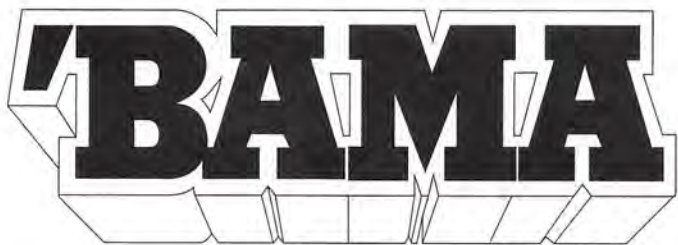
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'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/FEBRUARY '98





INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

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Barry Fikes Photo



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# BAMA SCORECARD

## Hall Of Famer

Former Alabama football star Dwight Stephenson, an All-America for the Crimson Tide in 1979 and the starting center on the 1978 and 1979 Bama national championship teams, has been selected for induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Stephenson then played eight seasons for the Miami Dolphins, including a streak of 107 straight games. He was offensive captain for the Dolphins and Miami led the league in fewest sacks allowed in six of those seasons.

Another former Tide star, and teammate of Stephenson, Ozzie Newsome, did not receive the necessary 80 per cent of votes to gain entry into the Hall of Fame, but because he finished in the top six in voting he will automatically be a finalist in voting next year.

## All-Stars

When Florida showed up at this year's Citrus Bowl, Gators Head Coach Steve Spurrier was asked about his team's disappointing season. Florida had gone 9-2, including wins over SEC champion Tennessee and ACC champion Florida State. Spurrier said the season wasn't a disappointment, that a disappointing season would be having a team that was 4-7 with its seniors playing in the Blue-Gray Game. Was that a shot?

Indeed, Alabama was 4-7 and the Tide did have three players who scored touchdowns in Montgomery's Blue-Gray Game. Curtis Alexander scored on a pass reception, while Dennis Riddle and Ed Scissum ran for touchdowns.

Curtis was also a late addition to the South roster in Mobile's Senior Bowl, which included cornerback Deshea Townsend (who had an interception), tight end Rod Rutledge (who had the game's first reception), and Michael Myers (who looked like someone who hadn't played football in over four months). Myers missed all but one game of the 1997 season after it was learned he had received benefits from a sports agent. That mistake is expected to cost him hundreds of thousands of dollars in this year's National Football League draft.

One member of the North squad at the Senior Bowl was Brian Musso, son of all-time Alabama great Johnny Musso. Brian, who was raised in Chicago, said he made a recruiting trip to Alabama, but got the feeling from then-coach Gene Stallings that Alabama would offer Brian a scholarship only because he was Johnny's son. Brian wanted to go where he was wanted for his abilities, and ended up as a star at Northwestern.

## Not What We Meant

For those who think the Alabama men's basketball team needs a break in this diffi-

cult season, the one suffered by forward Chris Rollins wasn't the one Bama had in mind. The right-handed Rollins suffered a broken left wrist. He underwent surgery and will be lost for the season. Rollins is a junior college transfer from Winnsboro, Louisiana, who had started his first game of the year, against Auburn, the day before the injury was diagnosed. It is believed Rollins played and practiced for about two weeks before reporting the injury.

## Evaluation Later

Alabama Athletics Director Bob Bockrath was absolutely correct to withhold judgment on Head Basketball Coach David Hobbs following the worst defeat in Crimson Tide history. Bama was thoroughly trounced by Auburn, 94-40, at Auburn. The 54-point margin was by far the worst in Alabama history. With Hobbs now in his sixth year, there has been significant sentiment from Alabama fans to make a change. However, Bockrath said he would not make a decision based on one "really awful loss." Bockrath said that Hobbs, as all coaches, would be evaluated based on the entire season and a decision on his future made at the end of the season. Hobbs has two years remaining on his contract following this year.

## Recruiting Coup

Many believe that if David Hobbs does retain his job as head basketball coach it will be in great part because of his recruiting success. Alabama had an excellent early signing period, including getting the top prospect in Alabama, Sam Haginas of UMS-Wright Prep in Mobile. The Tide also continues to be considered the leader in the quest to sign one of the nation's top prospects, 6-10 Rashard Lewis of Alief, Texas, in the late period.

But it may be that the most amazing aspect of Alabama basketball recruiting is the Tide receiving a commitment from Antonio Falu, a 6-5 point guard at Waltrip High School in Houston. While it would be unusual for Alabama to get a commitment from any top high school player in Texas, this one is particularly remarkable because Falu is junior. And not just any junior. He's ranked among the nation's 20 best juniors. He's a native of Puerto Rico who was averaging 22.6 points, eight assists, seven rebounds and four steals per game for Coach Fred Smith's team at the time of his commitment in mid-January.

## Tide Vs. South Alabama?

Next year's Holiday Hardwood Classic at the Birmingham/Jefferson Civic Center is likely to include Alabama playing South Alabama and Auburn meeting Alabama-Birmingham. The Alabama Sports Foundation plans to expand next year's

event with a men's doubleheader on December 12 and a women's doubleheader (including Alabama, Auburn, Alabama-Birmingham and another team) on December 13.

## Women's MVP

Former Alabama women's basketball star Shalonda Enis was named Most Valuable Player in the women's professional league, ABL, All-Star Game. Enis, a rookie with the Seattle Reign, scored 15 points on five-for-seven shooting and pulled down five rebounds. She scored eight points in the first quarter and was also a defensive force for the winning West team.

## Triple Double

In a 74-68 Alabama victory over Northwestern State in Louisiana, Tide women's basketball star Dominique Canty had her first triple-double as she led the Tide with 20 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists. She and former All-America Niesa Johnson are the only Tide women to accomplish the triple-double.

## Top Ten

The Alabama baseball team of Coach Jim Wells is a consensus national top ten team in pre-season polls. Bama, which finished second in the nation with a 56-14 record last year, is predicted to finish sixth by *The Sporting News*, seventh by *Baseball America*, and eighth by *Collegiate Baseball*.

However, Alabama's lofty national rankings notwithstanding, the strength of the SEC is apparent in that Bama is picked to finish only second in the SEC Western Division. Defending national champion LSU is picked to win the Western Division according to a poll of SEC coaches. Additionally, the coaches give Florida, the favorite in the Eastern Division, the best chance of upsetting LSU for the league crown. LSU received nine first place votes in the Western Division, while Bama received only one. Mississippi State got two first place votes, but was picked third, followed by Auburn, Arkansas and Ole Miss. Florida received 11 votes for first place in the Eastern Division with Tennessee getting the other vote and finishing second.

In voting for the SEC Championship, LSU received six votes, Florida five and Alabama one.

## Player Recognition

Tide pitcher Pete Fisher is a pre-season second team All-America selection by *Baseball America* and third team All-America by *Collegiate Baseball*. In addition, *Baseball America* lists him as the number two draft prospect in the SEC.

*Collegiate Baseball* lists pitcher Jarod Kingrey as a second team All-America and outfielder G.W. Keller as a third team pre-season pick.

Justin Smith, a left-handed pitcher who joined the Tide from Seward Community



College this year, is listed by *Baseball America* as one of three SEC newcomers to watch.

### Baseball Barbecue

The Alabama Grand Slammers, the support group for Alabama baseball, will have its annual meet-the-team barbecue 11:30-1:30 Saturday, January 7, in the Hank Crisp Indoor facility. Tickets are \$6.50 and may be purchased in advance by calling Scott Cork at (205) 333-9943. Membership in the Grand Slammers is \$25 per year (\$40 for a family membership). The group has numerous events during the year.

### Sold Out

Alabama has sold a school record 2,588 reserved season tickets for the upcoming baseball season, double the number sold a year ago. That is all of the grandstand seats in Sewell-Thomas Stadium. The total is a 600 per cent increase in the number of season tickets sold prior to the 1995 season, when Jim Wells became head baseball coach.

After Alabama sold out all of the grandstand seats, the Tide began a season ticket campaign of selling bleacher seats. Bleacher seats are \$75 for the season or \$180 for four seats. Additionally, Bama is selling SEC weekend packages at \$12 per seat for the three games.

Last year Alabama was seventh in the nation in baseball attendance and this year's pre-season sales should push the Tide into the top five in national attendance.

### Good Finish

When Alabama Head Men's Golf Coach Dick Spybey received an invitation from the United States Golf Association Executive Committee to join them at Augusta National, he had to figure it was going to be a pretty nice experience.

How nice? Well, Spybey stayed in the famed Eisenhower Cabin. And then he got to played the course. Standing on the 18th tee, Spybey knew that as long as he didn't do worse than double bogey he would break 80.

Spybey made a good drive. Then from the fairway, he knocked his eight iron shot into the hole for an eagle 2 and a score of 75.

Spybey is very active in golf organizations, including being past president of the National Golf Coaches Association and manager of the United States team for the Palmer Cup matches.

### Yurchenko Makes Difference

Prior to this year, junior Bama gymnast Gwen Spidle did not compete in the vault because the vault in which she had competed in high school was not allowed in college. This year the NCAA added the Yurchenko as a vault, and, as a result, Spidle is now competing in vault and in all-around. She was the all-around champion in leading Alabama to its 31st consecutive victory over Auburn this year. (The Yurchenko involves

doing a round off before hitting the spring-board.)

### Comeback Kid

Senior gymnast Shay Murphy turned in a 9.95 score in the floor exercise when number two Alabama hosted number one Georgia earlier this year. It was the highest individual score in the meet. Alabama fans had a long wait to see that routine. Last year as she was putting the routine together she tore the anterior cruciate ligament in her knee. While she was able to participate in a few meets at the end of the 1997 season, she did not do her new routine. She is currently ranked third in the nation in floor exercise.

### Hot Start

Freshman gymnast Robin Hawkins became the first freshman since Meredith Willard to win an all-around championship for Bama when she took the title in Alabama's season-opening event at Minnesota. She also led the Tide in all-around scoring against Georgia and ranks sixth in the nation.

### New Broadcasters

No change is expected in the on-air talent when the new media rights holder takes over operations for Alabama athletics on July 1. Learfield Communications, a mid-west company, won the rights to from Birmingham's Collegiate Sports Partners, Inc., which had held the rights for the past five years. Learfield and another company, International Sports Properties, have formed Crimson Tide Sports Marketing to handle the Alabama sports package.

The four-year contract gives the new company exclusive marketing rights in advertising sales, production and distribution of radio game broadcasts, weekly coaches radio call-in shows, coaches television programs, production and distribution of football, basketball and other sports event programs, and distribution of television pay-per-view telecasts.

Bockrath said the new group would have a statewide network for SEC women's basketball and SEC baseball.

Although there has been no announcement, it is fully expected that Eli Gold will continue as play-by-play announcer in football and men's basketball and that Doug Layton will continue as color man in football.

One irony of the change is that Wright Waters resigned after seven years as commissioner of the Southern Conference to take over management of the new company. Waters had been considered a possible candidate for the job of Alabama athletics director when Bockrath got the job. Waters, 48, is an alumnus of Alabama.

### High-Tech Scoreboards

Progress on the addition to Bryant-Denny Stadium is dramatic, but there is going to be even more than 81 sky-boxes and 10,000

new seats when the project is finished prior to the 1998 football season.

Alabama is also going high-tech with its scoreboard. The scoreboard/video screen in the South end zone will be a multi-million dollar addition, and it won't cost The University a dime. A vendor will be selected to install the new scoreboard for the stadium and two new scoreboard/video screens in Coleman Coliseum. The coliseum scoreboards will be installed prior to next season.

The screens will show play-by-play and replays within the limits of NCAA rules.

### Agents Beware

Sports agents have done more than their share to harm Alabama football in recent years. If State Representative Gerald Allen of Cottondale has his way, agents who sign college athletes with eligibility remaining would be liable for damages to a school. Allen is the father of Tide walk-on wide receiver Wes Allen.

Incidentally, Alabama has more registered sports agents than any other state, 120. That's probably because Alabama has enforced its agent registration law. Texas is second with 51, followed by Tennessee with 50, Georgia with 41, Louisiana with 30.

### Counselor Leaves

The athletics department has lost one of the members of its academic counseling staff. Don Dawson, who has been involved in counseling for the past five years, has gone to Eastern Illinois, where his wife is a professor.

### Historic Decision

No college football team has a more storied bowl history than does Alabama, which has been to more bowls and more major bowls than any other team and which has more bowl victories than any other.

And the Tide has a number of distinctions in many of those bowl games. One of the most notable came in the 1954 Cotton Bowl, when Bama's Tommy Lewis left the bench to tackle Rice halfback Dickie Moegle, who had broken away on a long run.

The referee in that game, Cliff Shaw, awarded Rice a touchdown. Although there was no specific penalty in the rules book for an off-the-bench tackle, at the next meeting of the football rules committee the ruling made by Shaw became standard procedure. Shaw died in late January in Little Rock, Arkansas.

### Cross Country Correction

Do you remember where Alabama's 1997 men's cross country team finished nationally? It was reported in the last edition of *Bama*. One alert cross country fan noticed that we had the Crimson Tide of Coach David Troy finishing 29th, a disappointment after a 20th place finish the year before and certainly below the pre-meet expectations of a top 15 finish. Well, we were wrong. Bama actually finished in 19th place.

# Coaches And Players Staying Busy

by Kirk McNair

Planning and off-season workouts important part of preparing football team

When Alabama isn't playing football games, the Crimson Tide staff is ordinarily doing things to get ready for those games. And the players don't have much idle time either. It goes without saying that recruiting takes up much of the attention of the coaching staff, but there are other considerations. Alabama begins spring football practice approximately March 16 and a new coaching staff has plenty of planning to do. One of the things already planned is Alabama's football banquet, moved out of the recruiting period to March 6.

After Bama begins spring training, the players (along with all other students at The University) will get spring break from March 28 through April 5. The A-Day Game will be April 18. (Alabama's spring coaching clinic will be April 10-11.)

Spring practice will be a bit different than in the past. For the past few years a team has been permitted to have 15 practice days of which 10 could be full gear workouts. Beginning this spring, a time when the NCAA determined there were a disproportionate number of injuries, the team will have three days of helmet-only



Terry Jones

non-contact practices. The first two practices of the spring must be non-contact. A team may have four days of contact practices, full pads optional, in which there is no tackling. And a team may have eight days of full gear contact practices in which tackling is permitted. However, only three of those days can be devoted mainly to 11-on-11 scrimmages. A spring game is one of those 11-on-11 days.

One of the Bama football staff members is not planning. He's in the middle of his season, or at least one of his seasons. Terry Jones directs Alabama's strength and conditioning program, and the time be-

tween the start of classes in early January and the beginning of spring training is a critical time for Jones to give Crimson Tide players a healthy dose of running, weight-lifting and agility work.

Reports from the Bama camp are that the workouts have been intense. Although the off-season work is not the only ingredient that goes into building a football team, Alabama Head Coach Mike DuBose has noted from the day he was named to the position that he felt there was a need for Alabama's players to be much stronger.

Most of the attention in the spring will be on what Alabama does from an offensive standpoint with a new quarterback and quarterbacks coach, a new wide receivers coach, the return of one of Bama's great offensive weapons in wide receiver Michael Vaughn, and the loss of some good running backs that should elevate Shaun Alexander to clear number one at tailback.

Shortly after naming his new staff and describing its alignment (see Page 12), DuBose was asked what he would seek from his new offensive staff.

"It's the same thing I said last year, but we didn't get it (in 1997)," DuBose said. "It won't change. We want to be able to spread the field, force defenses to have to defend the width of the field. We did not do a good job of that. Then it's very simple. If opposing defenses line up with six men in the box (close to the line of scrim-



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mage), we need to be able to run the ball. If they line up with seven, and especially if they have eight or nine, in the box, which we got an awful lot of last season, then we have to be able to throw the football. If we get to where we throw the intermediate pass and get the football into the hands of the guys who have the ability to make the big plays and still keep the ability to throw vertically and we are still be able to run it, then we will be very hard to defend. If we just go in and become a two-back I football team, and just run it, then it's not very difficult to defend."

That doesn't mean that DuBose will have his attention strictly on the offense. There is plenty of work to be done on the defensive side and in special teams work if Bama is to reverse last year's terrible 4-7 performance.

On paper, there is reason to believe Bama's back is against the wall. In addition to severe losses from the 1997 team, the schedule is considerably more difficult with Florida replacing Kentucky on the Southeastern Conference part of the slate and Brigham Young and East Carolina replacing Houston and Louisiana Tech on the non-conference line-up.

Maybe that's why John Adams, columnist for the *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, wrote the world's earliest SEC outlook in which he picked Alabama last in the SEC Western Division.

Unfortunately, one can't deny the fact that Bama, which has won far more SEC championships than any other league member, is defending the SEC Western Division basement after last year.

**E**llis Johnson, who is both Alabama's defensive coordinator and outside linebackers coach, has a little more work to do because of the indefinite (and probably permanent) suspension of Carlton Person, who played enough to letter as a true freshman last fall. Person, who would have projected as a top prospect for the starting job at one of the outside spots this fall, was suspended following his arrest on a charge of harassment. The complaint was filed by his wife. Person lived with his wife and two step-children in an off-campus apartment.

Person, 6-2, 220, was highly-recruited as a senior, despite missing most of his senior year at North Jackson High School in Stephenson because of an eligibility dispute. He did not play in Alabama's first



Fernando Bryant

three games last fall and was also held out of the LSU game, but saw action in every other game either on special teams or at weakside linebacker. For the year he had 12 unassisted tackles and nine assists and

broke up one pass.

Person, who has been reported as likely to transfer to Tennessee Martin, was the fourth member of that recruiting class to leave the team. Another outside linebacker candidate, Chris Wheeler of Sylacauga, left the team late in the season. Later still, DuBose dismissed running back Antoney Williams of Tuscaloosa (who has since transferred to East Mississippi Community College) and defensive back Wayne Thomas of Dothan (who was expected to transfer to Troy State).

On the other hand, cornerback Fernando Bryant, who had considered the possibility of by-passing his senior season to make himself eligible for the National Football League draft, elected to stay for his final year. While the general feeling was that Bryant did not have the type year that would lend itself to an early departure for the NFL, he did have three interceptions (which he returned for 100 yards) and broke up 10 passes, was in on 47 tackles, and averaged 27.7 yards per runback on kickoff returns in 1997. However, the reason Bryant stayed was, "I



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couldn't leave Alabama in a situation like this." His reference was to Bama's 4-7 season.

He said, "It really came down to like what Coach (Paul) Bryant said one time: 'Mama was calling.' If it had been anywhere else, like Nebraska or Tennessee, I would have left."

Bryant said Charles Woodson winning the Heisman Trophy also had an affect on

his thinking. He and DuBose have discussed the possibility of Bryant seeing occasional duty on offense as a wide receiver.

Bryant, 6-0, 177, also said he talked to his uncle, Don Griffin of the Baltimore Ravens, who counseled him to stay in school. Bryant, a physical education major, said he had a chance to graduate next December.

## 1998 Alabama Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site
Sept. 5	Brigham Young	Tuscaloosa
Sept. 12	Vanderbilt	Birmingham
Sept. 19	Arkansas	Fayetteville
Sept. 26	East Carolina	Birmingham
Oct. 3	Florida	Tuscaloosa
Oct. 17	Ole Miss	Tuscaloosa
Oct. 24	Tennessee	Knoxville
Oct. 31	Southern Miss.	Tuscaloosa
Nov. 7	LSU	Baton Rouge
Nov. 14	Mississippi State	Starkville
Nov. 21	Auburn	Birmingham
	SEC Championship Game	
Dec. 5	TBA	Atlanta

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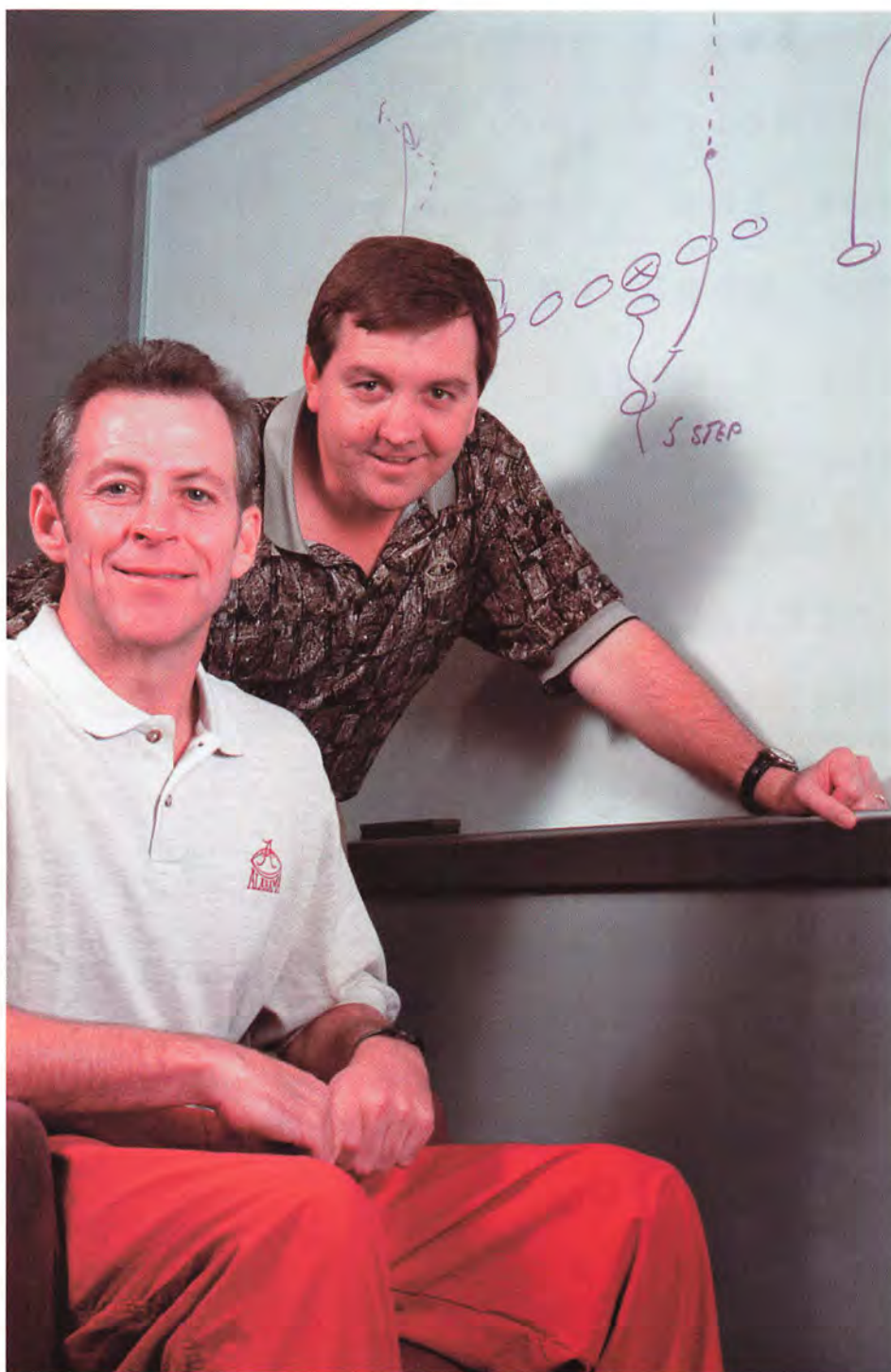
INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE



# DuBose Adds Quartet Of Coaches

by Donald F. Staffo

In addition to new coaches on offense and defense, the football staff is realigned



They are good men, good coaches, and good friends of Alabama Head Football Coach Mike DuBose. However, at the end of a disastrous 4-7 football season in 1997, something had to be done. DuBose elected to make changes in his coaching staff, firing the four good men, good coaches, good friends. Dismissed were Assistant Head Coach and Receivers Coach Woody McCorvey, Offensive Coordinator and Quarterbacks Coach Bruce Arians, Secondary Coach Curley Hallman and Special Teams Coach Danny Pearman.

Now DuBose has added four new coaches and realigned the staff. The new men on board are Assistant Head Coach and Tight Ends Coach Ronnie Cottrell, Quarterbacks Coach Charlie Stubbs, Defensive Line Coach Jackie Shipp, and Secondary Coach Charlie Harbison.

In the realignment, Offensive Line Coach Neil Callaway takes on the additional duties of offensive coordinator. Dabo Swinney, who coached tight ends last season, will coach wide receivers, as he did in 1996. Defensive Coordinator Ellis Johnson, who coached the defensive line last year, will coach the outside linebackers. Jeff Rouzie, who coached all the linebackers last year, will coach inside linebacker(s) and have primary responsibility for special teams play. Cottrell is also expected to work with kickers, and beginning immediately after the February 4 signing day for 1998 prospects, Cottrell will assume the duties of recruiting coordinator.

None of the new coaches had a connection with either The University of Alabama or with DuBose. "I want fresh ideas in here and coaches who are unselfish and willing to listen," the Tide head coach said. "I feel good

Charlie Stubbs (left) and Ronnie Cottrell are new members of the Alabama football coaching staff on offense. Both come with exceptional credentials and with an appreciation for Crimson Tide tradition and expectations.

Barry Fikes Photo



and I am excited about this staff. We have an awful lot of work to do, but I am excited about the potential."

DuBose said that he has talked about modernizing the Alabama offense, and that his selection of Stubbs demonstrates that is more than just idle talk.

The Bama head coach was known as an exceptional defensive coach before being elevated to the top job prior to last season. Of his new defensive assistants, DuBose said, "They are excellent technicians. They do a fine job of coaching the fundamentals. If you can teach the technique, get the players to play fundamentally sound, and then play hard, you have a chance to have some play-makers."

Here is a look at each of the new Crimson Tide assistant football coaches.

**R**onnie Cottrell comes to Alabama from powerful Florida State University, where for eight years he was recruiting coordinator, as well as coach of either linebackers or tight ends. Cottrell's FSU recruiting classes were ranked in the top five nationally each of his eight years.

Cottrell admitted it was a difficult decision

to leave Bobby Bowden and the success at Florida State, but he also realized the opportunity that was presented to him when he was offered the Crimson Tide job. "It was probably the hardest decision that I ever made, because Bobby Bowden was so good to me and we had so much success there," Cottrell said. "It was very tough to leave. The main reason that I came to Alabama was Coach DuBose. I think he is a winner. I believe that he is going to do great things here, and I wanted to be a part of that. I felt I could make a difference here."

Cottrell said that he grew up an Alabama fan. "Alabama football was a big part of my life," he said. "And that went into the equation. But the number one reason I chose to come here was Coach DuBose."

Although Cottrell is best known as a recruiting coordinator, he is also a hard-nosed coach, one planning to have tough tight ends. However, he also expects the tight ends to be more than blockers. "In our new scheme, the tight end will be called on to catch the ball as well as block a defensive end," Cottrell said. "We're looking for a very special athlete who can run routes, get vertical to catch passes, be physical to pass pro-

tect when called upon, and be able to block the sweep."

As a recruiting coordinator, Cottrell delivered the nation's top recruiting classes in 1993, 1994, and last year, while the 1991 and 1995 classes were deemed second best in the nation.

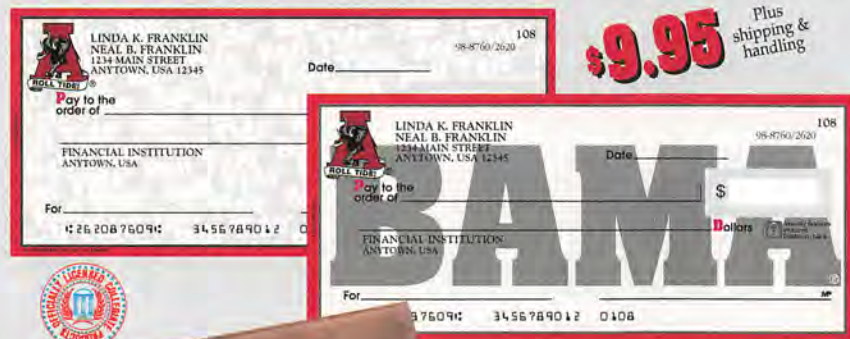
Last year his recruiting class included Travis Minor and David Warren, named by *USA Today* as the top offensive and defensive prospects in the nation. It was the second time Cottrell had pulled off the feat of recruiting both the number one offensive and defensive player in the nation. In 1991 he had recruited Derrick Brooks and Marquette Smith.

A native of Brewton, Cottrell was graduated from T.R. Miller High School and then attended Jefferson Davis Junior College before graduating from Troy State University in 1983. He began his coaching career at T.R. Miller in 1980, was an assistant at Troy State in 1981 and 1982, then moved back into the prep ranks as head coach at Kinston (1983-84), Flomaton (1985-87) and W.S. Neal (1988). He led Flomaton to back-to-back perfect seasons in 1986-87.

He was a graduate assistant at Florida

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State in 1989, assisting current South Carolina Head Coach Brad Scott in recruiting, before becoming recruiting coordinator in 1990.

Because of its stature in college football, Cottrell thinks that Alabama will be an easy sell to prospects. "We've got the best of everything here," he said. "The support is here and the resources available at the school are dynamic. It's the perfect opportunity for a kid to come in here, be a student-athlete, and help turn this program around. It's a great pleasure for me to sell this university."

DuBose said, "Ronnie is a native of Alabama and has extensive background in the state. He is well-known and respected in the coaching profession."

Cottrell said, "I bring to The University of Alabama the commitment to do the very best that I can for the school. I am extremely pleased that (Athletics Director) Bob Bockrath and Mike DuBose have brought me into the family."

**C**harlie Stubbs, who will coach quarterbacks, comes to the Tide from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, where in his two seasons the Rebels ranked ninth and 12th in the nation in passing offense. In 10 seasons as an offensive coordinator, Stubbs, a graduate of passing Mecca BYU, has never had an offense that finished lower than third in its conference in passing. He has coached five quarterbacks to all-conference honors, two of them to All-America status.

Stubbs said he came to Alabama because of the opportunity and the challenge. His head coach at UNLV, Jeff Horton, understood. "He's going to the SEC, and Alabama has a little bit of tradition," Horton said. "Alabama is Alabama. That's hard to beat."

Horton noted that Alabama had won 12 national championships. Stubbs, too, talks of national titles. "You can tell the commitment here," he said. "I recognized when I came for my interview. Everything is first class. There is a commitment to excellence. The expectations here are super high. I'm coming to win national championships."

Stubbs was also impressed with DuBose. "Just talking with Coach DuBose in meetings, I could tell he was an excellent man to work with as we get the program heading in the direction that he wants it to go."

Stubbs played wide receiver for Lavell Edwards at Brigham Young. "That's where my background in the passing game came from and where my roots are," Stubbs said. "Now my philosophy is a combination of my BYU background and what (Green Bay

Packers Head Coach) Mike Holmgren is doing."

Throughout his career Stubbs has developed quarterbacks into players who have consistently ranked high in NCAA passing statistics. His latest quarterback, Jon Denton, finished as an honorable mention All-WAC selection after leading the league in passing and total offense. He surpassed the 6,000-yard passing mark quicker than than any other player. He earned Freshman All-America and was WAC Freshman of the Year as he established 10 NCAA passing records.

Stubbs was assistant head coach and offensive coordinator, as well as quarterbacks coach, at UNLV. In two seasons with the Rebels his teams finished second in total offense and first in passing offense in the WAC and 12th in the NCAA in passing last season. In 1996 the Rebels were second in the WAC and ninth in the nation in passing.

A native of Charleston, South Carolina, Stubbs coached in the high school ranks in his home state for a few years following his 1978 graduation from BYU. He served as a graduate assistant coach while earning his masters degree at BYU in 1983 and 1984, then went to Oregon State in 1985. He later coached at Memphis and Tennessee-Martin before heading to UNLV.

Stubbs said that Alabama wants to join the ranks of college football teams putting up big points. "Alabama wants to move in that direction, to become more of a wide-open offense," he said. "I guess that's why I was brought here, to develop a quarterback who could do those things and a passing system. I'm excited about the opportunity."

He said he is going to install "a quarterback-oriented, high-percentage passing offense where we dictate to the defense by utilizing a lot of motions and formations."

Stubbs said he will not platoon quarterbacks. "You have to have a guy you can commit to so that he can have confidence and will not be looking over his shoulder," the coach said. He said, "I really believe in the system I'm bringing in."

DuBose said, "One of the things that stands out about him is that he knows how to move the football and score points. I think he brings a new dimension to our football team. Throughout his career he has done an excellent job of developing young quarterbacks."

**J**ackie Shipp, the new defensive line coach, was a highly-respected assistant coach at Northeast Louisiana, but is perhaps better known for an outstanding

playing career, both in the college ranks and in the National Football League. This isn't his first experience with success in the state of Alabama. He was named Most Valuable Defensive Player in the 1985 Senior Bowl in Mobile.

Shipp has experienced big-time football and he relished the opportunity to get back to it. After earning All-America as an inside linebacker at Oklahoma, Shipp had the opportunity to play in the NFL. He played with the Miami Dolphins, and took part in the 1985 Super Bowl, and finished his career with the Oakland Raiders.

Shipp spent the 1997 season as defensive line coach at Northeast Louisiana. Prior to that he was defensive line coach at Southern Illinois at Carbondale for three years. He also coached one year each at Tennessee-Martin, Central Missouri State and Langston University. He has also had an opportunity to coach in the training camps of the Green Bay Packers and Minnesota Vikings the past three years.

Shipp said he was attracted by what Bama offered. "I looked at the great tradition of The University of Alabama and the potential for winning the national championship," he said. "Alabama provides the opportunity to be the best, and that's something that's important to me. When you get an opportunity like that, you've got to take it."

Shipp sees similarities in Alabama and his alma mater, Oklahoma. "You're looking at two schools with great tradition that have won national championships and had nationally-known coaches," he said. In fact, Alabama and Oklahoma are the only schools to have twice won back-to-back national championships.

DuBose appreciates Shipp's pedigree. "I am happy that a coach of the background and ability of Jackie Shipp will be joining our staff," DuBose said. "He brings experience as a player and coach at both the college and professional levels."

Former Alabama great Ozzie Newsome, now general manager of the Baltimore Ravens of the NFL, said he was among those contacted by DuBose about Bama coaching vacancies. Newsome said that he first knew of Shipp as an NFL opponent. "He should be a great coach and recruiter, because he has great intensity," Newsome said.

The pro ranks provided Shipp with much of his knowledge of Alabama. "Mostly what I knew about Alabama I learned from guys that I played with and met in the pros," he said. "You ask someone up there about Alabama and you don't hear anything but good."





Alabama's new defensive staff members, Charlie Harbison (left) and Jackie Shipp, both have professional football playing experience. More than that, both have proved themselves to be excellent college football coaches and both are pleased to be at Alabama. Barry Fikes Photo

Shipp said he will be looking for defensive linemen with height, weight, speed, quickness, aggressiveness, and mental and physical toughness.

**C**harlie Harbison will coach the secondary, the same position he has coached the past three years at Clemson, where the Tigers led the Atlantic Coast Conference in 1995 and were third in 1997.

Harbison, a native of Shelby, North Carolina, said he grew up watching Alabama football. And he said that even though Clemson has an enthusiastic football following, he recognized a difference when he arrived in Tuscaloosa. "The tradition is so rich and the expectations are so high here," he said. "You can feel the expectation to be the best in everything you do. Getting the opportunity to coach here is a dream come true."

He said he wants defensive backs with

speed, size and aggressiveness. "I like a guy who has confidence in himself," he said. He said it is his goal for the secondary to play hard, smart and competitively. "I will do whatever it takes to make Alabama successful defensively," he said. "I prefer a get-in-your-face, aggressive style of defense, but you have to do what the talent will allow. You can't ask players to do something they aren't capable of doing just because you believe in it. You have to structure something so your players can be effective. The main thing is to be on the same page with the defensive coordinator in whatever the situation calls for." Harbison is certainly familiar with Bama's defensive coordinator, having coached with Johnson at Clemson prior to Johnson leaving the Tigers for Bama in 1997.

Harbison has perhaps the most interesting coaching background of any member of the Crimson Tide staff. His first coaching experience came between professional playing

seasons as an assistant coach at his alma mater, Gardner-Webb, in 1984. Although Harbison played defensive back (and ran track) at the relatively small school, he was drafted by the Buffalo Bills. He later played in the USFL in Boston and New Orleans. Following his playing career, he returned to Gardner-Webb. He went from there to Texas El Paso. He also coached professional football at the minor league level before heading to Clemson in 1995. In all, his coaching travels have taken him from college to the United States Football League, the World League of American Football and Arena League Football.

"Coaching is coaching," said Harbison, who coached with eight different teams in a four-year period. "You just have to adjust to the talent you have." Harbison has proved he can adjust as his teams rank among statistical leaders and his players—four of them in the past three years—go into professional football.



# Wells Is "Not In The Mood To Rebuild"

by Peter Edmund

Several newcomers must contribute to 1998 Bama

In three years, the Alabama Crimson Tide baseball team has risen from the ashes of the college baseball world to one of the nation's most dominant programs. Gone are the days of last-place finishes in the Southeastern Conference Western Division. Gone are the days of 35-loss seasons. Gone are the days of empty seats at Sewell-Thomas Stadium. With Coach Jim Wells' arrival at The Capstone for the 1995 season, the Alabama baseball program resumed its historic position as an SEC power.

Alabama baseball has experienced it all in Wells' tenure, including regular-season SEC championships, SEC Tournament championships, NCAA Regional titles and back-to-back trips to the College World Series, including a berth in last year's national championship game. In the stands, the Tide is also a success. Season ticket sales have gone from a handful to a near capacity crowd. Alabama baseball is exciting again.

And no one is more excited about the start of a new year than Wells, who begins his fourth season with the Tide.

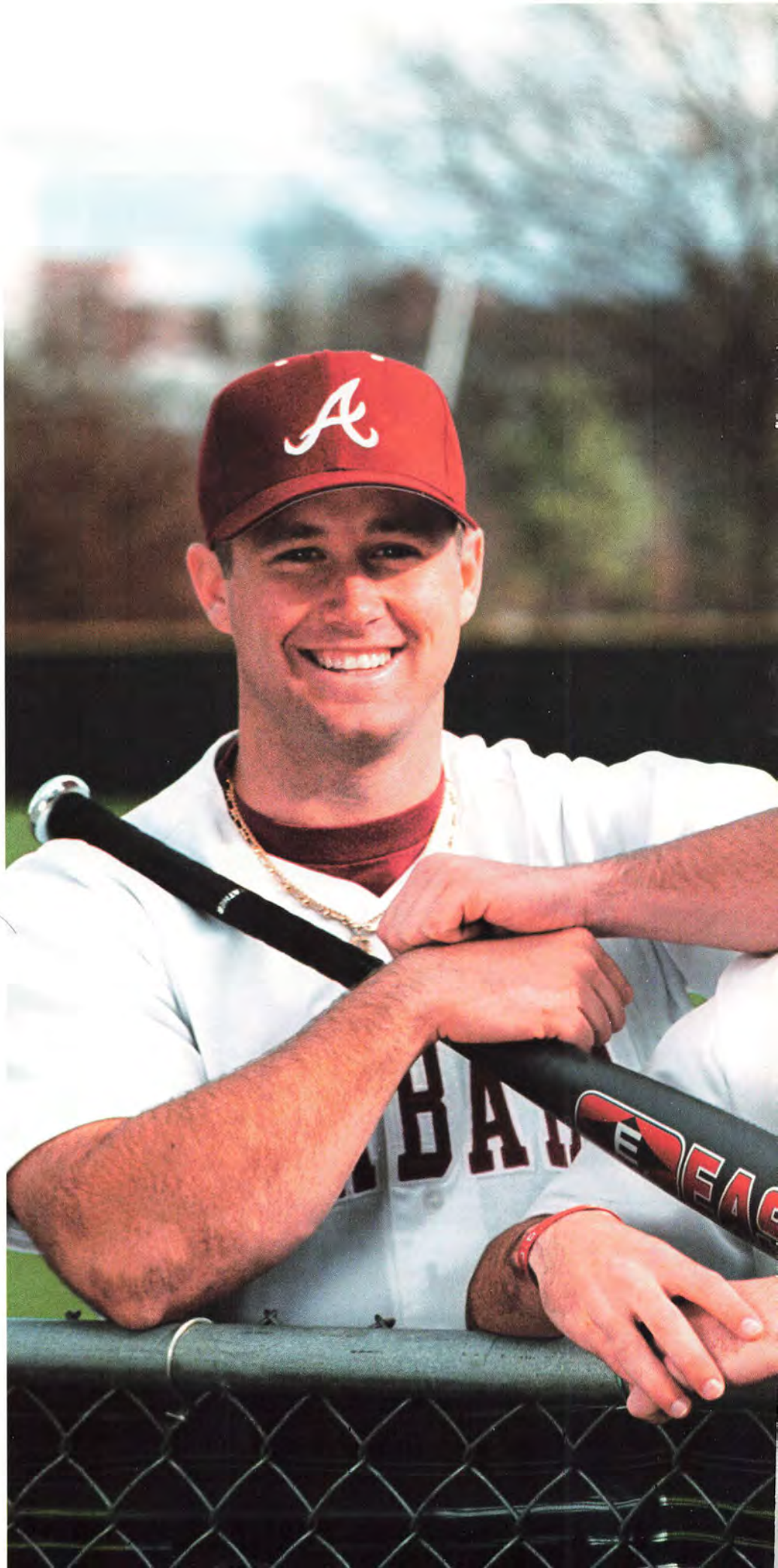
Bama returns a pair of 10-win pitchers and three key starters from last year's team that finished with the best record (56-14) in school history. Alabama suffered a major setback in the off-season when Heath Henderson, considered the ace of the staff, was dismissed from the team for disciplinary reasons. Henderson set single-season school records last season for wins (13) and innings pitched (124 1/3). He made six post-season appearances, including four starts.

It all starts with pitching and even with the loss of Henderson, the Tide should be improved.

Bama returns 10-game winners in Pete Fisher and Jarrod Kingrey. Fisher will now be called upon as the ace, and with good reason. Professional baseball scouts are drooling over the 6-4 right-hander from

Alabama has only a few position starters returning from last year, but (left to right) catcher Matt Frick, outfielder G.W. Keller and third baseman Andy Phillips are all all-star candidates.

Barry Fikes Photo









Stoneham, Massachusetts. *Baseball America* labels him the number-two professional prospect in the SEC.

Kingrey won five of his 10 games in the post-season last year and made a name for himself by pitching practically every day at the South II Regional and at the College World Series. His only start of the year was a complete-game gem against Mississippi State in the SEC Tournament opener.

"We need to find a third starter," Wells said. "(Pete) Fisher and (Justin) Smith look to be one and two, but we need a third guy. I think our younger pitchers are getting better. We will be better at the end of the year with middle relief as they get more game experience."

Junior college transfer Justin Smith figures into the Tide's starting rotation. A quality left-hander at Seward County Community College, Smith enters the spring as the Tide's number-two hurler.

Junior right-hander Manny Torres is coming off shoulder surgery that side-lined him for the final six weeks of the 1997 season. Torres was given a clean bill of health this fall and began throwing in early December. If Torres returns healthy, the Tide will have three experienced SEC pitchers returning for the season.

The Tide will also have the services of several young arms that could see action this season. Among the newcomers are Jonathan Blankenship, B.J. Green and Kris McWhirter. Wells is very excited about their progress and can't wait to see them against live competition. "The three freshmen impressed me this fall and they will have to pitch," Wells said. "All three worked very hard and improved each week. They will have a chance to pitch for us early this season."

Another rookie with glowing accolades is Justin Lombardi. The left-hander was beset by injuries during his senior season at Coyle and Cassidy High School in Taunton, Massachusetts, and slipped in the Major League Draft. He enrolled at Alabama and pitched only one inning this fall. He could give the Tide another dominant left-handed starter.

Tripp Baldwin returns. He was redshirted in 1996 and did not participate last season. Freshmen Jay Jackson and Jeremy Vaughn will likely be redshirted this season.

The Crimson Tide added another right-hander to the mix when fifth-year senior quarterback Freddie Kitchens announced that he would pitch this spring. Kitchens pitched for Alabama in 1994, compiling a 2-0 record and 0.00 ERA on Coach Barry Shollenberger's final team. The combination of spring football practice and pitching caused Kitchens to give up baseball in mid-season due to a shoulder injury. "This is something I have always wanted to do," Kitchens said. "Now that football is over, I wanted to go back out for baseball. I started playing several years ago, but did not finish. I like to finish everything I start. I am excited about playing baseball for Alabama and



Jim Wells has done an extraordinary job of putting Alabama baseball back on the national scene. Although a number of young players will be expected to perform well in 1998, Wells does not consider this a rebuilding year.

Barry Fikes Photo

Coach Wells."

Although the right-hander has not pitched in nearly four years, Wells is excited about Kitchens joining the team. Coming out of Etowah High School in Attalla Kitchens was a top pitching prospect. He routinely threw in the 90s and possessed a great curve ball.

"Freddie will have a chance to pitch for us this season," Wells said. "The scouts tell me

he had a great fast ball and curve ball in high school. I am pulling for him to do well." Kitchens' role on this year's team will likely be in the form of the closer.

**W**ells will have to replace six everyday starters off last year's club, but has the luxury of building around three of the nation's top players. Returning



are senior catcher Matt Frick, junior third baseman Andy Phillips and outfielder/designated hitter G.W. Keller.

"The three guys that are back are certainly going to be our leaders this season," Wells said. "I think it's always key that those guys have big years. These should be the guys who hit in the middle of our lineup. We have to build around those three players."

On the infield, Wells must replace first baseman Robbie Tucker, second baseman and second-team All-America Joe Caruso and shortstop Nate Duncan. The Tide will also have to replace all three every day outfielders including Golden Spikes finalist Roberto Vaz, SEC Tournament Most Valuable Player David Tidwell and SEC All-Tournament and South II All-Tournament pick Dustan Mohr.

"Offensively, I think we will continue to get better," Wells said. "Because we spent so much time hitting (in fall practice), I think we will be able to put nine hitters out there each time. We are looking for the right nine and then have a couple of guys off the bench."

Alabama has boasted the SEC's top catcher in three of the last four seasons, and with the experience and depth behind the plate this season the Tide should be solid once again. Senior Matt Frick, who homered to beat USC in the South II Regional Championship game, returns for his final year at The Capstone. Last year, Frick led all SEC defensive players with a .998 fielding mark, and threw out almost 60 per cent of opposing base runners. He had one of the better offensive years in recent memory by a Tide catcher, hitting .331 with 16 home runs and 55 RBI. The 16 home runs were the most by an Alabama catcher since Doug Duke's school-record 27 homers in 1986.

Joining Frick behind the plate are junior college transfer Paul Phillips and freshman Kelley Gullede. Phillips, a transfer from Meridian Community College, was one of the top junior college catchers in the nation. In addition to catching, Phillips will also see action in the outfield or as the designated hitter. Gullede, a true freshman from Arlington, Texas, has been very impressive for the Tide. Not only is he a good receiver, but he can hit and hit for power. He doesn't look or act like a rookie and that could lead to this being the strongest position for the Tide this season. And because of their versatility look for all three to be in the lineup at some point this season.

Another returning starter is preseason All-America and All-SEC candidate Andy Phillips, who returns for his third season and this second full season at third base. Phillips is a leader both on and off the field. Last year, he hit .366 with 15 homers, 65 RBI and a team-high 25 doubles. He was one of the top defensive third basemen in the SEC, and he was named to all three post-season all-tournament teams (SEC, South II and CWS). Phillips is the only experienced

third baseman returning, having played every inning of every game since the end of last February, a span over 700 consecutive innings.

True freshman Jeff Dragg, who will be used mainly as an outfielder, has also worked at both corner infield positions, and could provide some relief for Phillips this season.

**T**he remainder of the 1998 Crimson Tide infield will come from a mixture of newcomers and returning players.

For the fourth year in a row, Alabama will open the season with a new first baseman. This year, the Tide must replace Robbie Tucker, who belted 20 home runs last year, and was nearly flawless at first base. Redshirt sophomore Jayson Cox is the leading candidate. Cox will be trying his hand at his third position. He came to Alabama as a middle infielder, but moved to catcher last year. With the depth behind the plate, Cox moved to first base this fall. He is a hard worker and a talented offensive player. Frick could also see action at first base, allowing Phillips and Gullede more time behind the plate. David Mote, a solid utility player, could also see action at first base this season. Major Allred, a talented freshman, suffered a broken nose during the fall and could be redshirted.

Perhaps the most difficult task of 1998 will be replacing All-America second baseman and four-year starter Joe Caruso. The Crimson Tide's all-time hits leader concluded his career last year as one of the most prolific players in conference history. His 14 hits at the 1997 College World Series tied a 15-year CWS record.

The leading candidate to replace Caruso is true freshman Sam Bozanich, a highly-touted infielder from North High School in Bakersfield, California. Bozanich was very impressive this fall, both offensively and defensively. He improved his game each week, and could be one of the top rookies in the SEC this season. Cam Walters and Jason Gregory could also see action at second base. Walters, a versatile athlete, can play second base, shortstop and third base. Gregory can also play shortstop or in the outfield.

The most improved defensive player this fall will be the top candidate to replace Nate Duncan at shortstop. Dan Chavers, who played as a true freshman last season, will step into the starting shortstop role. Chavers opened his Alabama career with a bang, recording a triple in his first collegiate at-bat, but was slowed by injuries during the middle of the season. He made his SEC debut against Florida, collecting an RBI single. Walters will serve as the backup to Chavers this season.

Wells said, "Defensively, we realized (in the fall) we were not as strong early, but I thought we got a lot better. We have several young players on the infield who are good

players, but they haven't played a lot. Once we see live outside competition, I think they will be fine.

**G**.W. Keller, a pre-season third-team All-America pick by *Collegiate Baseball*, will open the season as the Tide's right fielder. Perhaps best known for his bat as the designated hitter for much of the 1997 season, Keller has the team's best arm in the outfield. He proved that last year by gunning down two USC base runners at home, including the potential go-ahead run in the ninth-inning.

Fifth-year senior Drew Bounds returns and will open the year as the starting left fielder. A left-handed hitter, Bounds has increased his power and is coming off an excellent fall.

The battle for the center field spot will be between a pair of transfers, Darren Wood and Antonio Bostic. Wood played at Texas Christian University last season, while Bostic starred at Meridian Community College. Both are good hitters and have good speed.

Other outfield candidates include, Mark Peer, who hit three home runs at the 1997 College World Series, freshmen footballer Chris Reier, Derek Wigginton and Dragg.

Dragg, a power-hitting freshman, made great strides this fall and will push for playing time. Dragg can also play both corner infield positions and might also be used as the designated hitter. Reier, a defensive back in football, will spend the spring with the Alabama baseball team. Wigginton enrolled at Alabama in January after transferring from Miami. He will have four year of eligibility. An excellent hitter, the 6-3, 215-pounder outfielder was drafted out of Father Ryan High School in Nashville by the Cleveland Indians (28th round).

Wells said, "We are not as talented as last year's team, but I am hoping this team will play together as a team and make up for some of the deficiencies we might have in power. We will be a young team, and we have never had a young team before. That means depending on players who haven't played much. Still, I am very optimistic."

"I think when we finally get our group together we will be very competitive. Our goals have not changed. I am certainly not in the mood to rebuild. We hope to continue going along as we have. I think we will still have a good team. We worked very hard this fall and have shown improvement."

Alabama, ranked in the top eight in all three pre-season baseball polls, will open the 1998 season February 13 against the Houston Cougars at Sewell-Thomas Stadium. Bama will face a challenging schedule this season, playing 29 games against teams ranked in the preseason polls. The list of ranked foes includes Houston, Cal-State Fullerton, Florida, South Alabama, South Carolina, Mississippi State, Arkansas, Tennessee, LSU and Auburn.



# Expectations Higher In Second Year

by Toraine A. Norris

Haack believes year of experience and good recruiting class will mean improvement

**F**orgive Alabama Head Softball Coach Kalum Haack if he appears to be just a little tense. He just can't shake the excitement of knowing softball season is only days away.

The thawing of the winter's frost and the sound of softball cleats knocking together is causing an unusual reaction for Alabama's generally laid back women's fast pitch softball coach. Maybe it's the clank of bats against the skin of a softball or the swirls of dust rising after a runner slides into home base that's causing the coach to get just a little antsy as February and opening day loom on the horizon. Call Haack's condition "softball fever."

This is the second time in his nine-year head coaching career that Haack has suffered the malady while residing at the helm at The Capstone. And this year the fever has hit a new high, particularly with 10 lettermen returning to jump start just the second season of Alabama's program.

"Frankly, I expect us to be much improved this season," said Haack of his 1998 softball squad. "We had an exceptional recruiting year and the players we have returning have a year under their belts."

Last year's inaugural team could hardly claim to have any "years" under its belt. Alabama finished the 1997 season with 29 wins and 29 losses after playing one of the toughest schedules of any program in the Southeastern Conference. Alabama faced several top-10 teams in 1997, including eventual 1997 national champion Arizona. A better-than-average fall practice and a strong influx of freshman talent could come together to make this season a very sensational one for Alabama on the softball diamond.

"I really believe we can win the SEC and go to the regionals this year," said first baseman Nikki McKee. "Last year, we started from scratch and we had to learn about each other's and the team's capabilities as we

went along. We didn't know what everyone could do last year, but with a year of experience, we do."

Alabama's list of returnees is headed by the power-hitting Christy Kyle. Kyle, a sophomore third baseman from Texas City, Texas, is primed to follow up a phenomenal freshman season that saw her lead Alabama in hitting with a .341 batting average and a .539 slugging percentage. Kyle slammed in five homers (team leader), 14 doubles and had 31 RBI in her first season at The Capstone. She played in all 58 games for Alabama in 1997 and earned SEC Player of the Week honors twice last season. Kyle is expected to give the Tide solid play at third base this season.

"Christy is just a very, very hard worker," Haack said. "Anything she does she gives a lot of effort. She's a competitor who wants to try to beat anybody and everybody around. If she doesn't beat you, she'll work hard to make sure she beats you the next time."

Sophomore first baseman Nikki McKee turned out to be a pleasant surprise for Alabama last season after never swinging a bat in her high school career. She finished second to Kyle in hitting with a .316 batting average while doubling as the Tide's second pitcher. She posted a 3.81 ERA and an 8-12 record as a pitcher. McKee underwent elbow surgery in the fall to remove bone spurs and missed all of fall practice. Nevertheless, Haack said he expects McKee to recover fully and improve on her 1997 performance.

Returning to round-out Alabama's infield rotation are senior second basemen Karla Contryman and shortstop Brittney Ezell.

Contryman was Alabama's most experienced player in 1997 after a stellar career at Phoenix Community College in Glendale, Arizona. Last season she batted .287 with 13 RBI and a .963 fielding percentage.

"She's set on having a great senior season," Haack said. "It seems that she's really picked it up on the leadership side for us in the fall.

I can really tell she's expecting big things from herself this spring."

Returning at shortstop is two-sport star Brittney Ezell, best known as the point guard for Coach Rick Moody's Alabama women's basketball team. In 1997 she joined the team following the completion of the basketball season. Ezell started all 16 games she played in last season and batted .264 in 87 at-bats. Ezell, a senior in basketball, has two seasons of eligibility left as a softball player.

"I'm really scared she's going to get drafted and we won't have her this season," the coach said. "She's an outstanding ball player and hopefully she'll be able to play for us and not in the pros. But whatever she does, I'm behind her 100 per cent."

Returning at catcher is Carrie Moreman. Moreman finished third in batting (.297 average), second in home runs (three) and first in RBI (32) in 1997. She is a junior.

Also available to fill in at any infield position is sophomore Kristi Black. Haack said Black is expected to see most action in relief of McKee at first and Kyle at third.

**A**labama returns three speedy, solid players in outfielders Kierstin Arntsen, Jennifer (J.C.) Chapman and Paula White.

Arntsen, known to her teammates as "Elmo," is the fastest player on the Alabama squad and is a tenacious defender. She started all 58 games last season. She finished 1997 with 16 stolen bases in 18 attempts. Only Contryman finished with more steals (21).

Chapman joins Contryman as one of only two seniors on the 1998 Alabama squad. They were also junior college teammates before arriving at Bama. Last season, Chapman occupied right field where she posted a .980 fielding percentage. She started 57 games in 1997.

White took over in the outfield after a





In 1997, Alabama inaugurated its women's softball program. Veterans (left to right) Christy Caccavo, Christy Kyle and Karla Contryman from that first group anticipate Bama being a much stronger team in 1998. Barry Fikes Photo

knee injury ended the season of starter Erin Garvey. White batted .210 in 1997 and scored 19 runs. She finished with a .879 fielding percentage. Haack said White is expected to be one of Alabama's most dangerous base runners.

At pitcher Alabama returns sophomore Christy "Crick" Caccavo. She finished her first season of collegiate play with a 21-17 record and a 2.19 ERA. She pitched 265 innings of softball for Alabama last season with 187 strikeouts. She had two saves.

"Crick really worked hard in the fall season," Haack said. "I think she will really benefit from having Penny Cope around so that she won't have to pitch in all of our big games like she did last season."

Cope, a true freshman from Carlisle, Iowa,

was the most highly-recruited of Haack's banner 1997 freshman class. Haack put Cope's pitching on display during the dedication of Natalie Bunn Memorial Field in Hueytown last fall. In that game, the freshman pitched Alabama to a 4-3 win over in-state rival Auburn. She had a no-hitter for seven and two-thirds innings.

"She's a really good pitcher with good velocity and she keeps the ball down so it's hard to hit her," Haack said. She's also a very hard worker. With her work ethic, she'll get the other players on the team to work harder."

Other freshmen of note include utility player Kim Robret, catcher Kelley Askew, infielder Ginger Jones, and outfielder Kelly Kretschman. These five freshmen are joined by transfers, pitcher Amy Bernard and in-

fielder Kristi Frenier. Haack describes Kretschman as a true blue chip prospect.

The return of so many experienced players and the addition of the incoming freshman class has had a positive effect on the Alabama team attitude.

"We should win at least 75 percent of our games this year," Kyle said. "Last year we lost all of our games to ranked opponents but this year I really am convinced we can beat some of those ranked teams."

That's an ambitious goal for a second-year program, but one Haack and his players believe to be attainable.

Haack is assisted by Patrick Murphy and Karen Johns.

The Tide will play its home games at Muni Sokol Park this year.



# New Leaders And Same Old Goals

by Andrew Varble II

New men's and women's coaches optimistic, but women have tough odds to overcome

There is a new dynamic duo heading up the Alabama men's and women's tennis programs this year. Adam Steinberg and Jenny Mainz both joined the Crimson Tide coaching staff during the off-season, taking over top-20 programs that were loaded with quality returning players.

Steinberg, who spent five years as head coach of St. John's and last season as an assistant at nationally-ranked Northwestern, took over the Tide reins from Joey Rivé. Rivé left Alabama to accept a position with the United States Tennis Association. Steinberg's roster is loaded with both talent and experience. Rivé's assistant over the past two seasons, Geoff Young, stayed on to as-

sist Steinberg, giving the first year Tide mentor an insight into the team. As a first year Southeastern Conference head coach, Steinberg couldn't be better set for the coming season.

"Joey really left me in a good position," Steinberg said. "There is a lot of talent on this squad. I have to thank him for that. Now we have to take all this talent and do something with it. I've been lucky to have Geoff, because he has been a tremendous help in making the transition smooth."

Alabama finished last season ranked 21st in the nation. The Tide's season ended in the finals of the NCAA Region III Championships.

Five of last year's top six return. Eight

players in all are back in the fold from last year and the Tide has added two freshmen to the lineup. Steinberg says that while the return of senior captain Chris Lopez and sophomore standout Francisco Rodriguez, both ranked nationally last season, are important to the Tide, it is Alabama's depth that will carry it through the season to the lofty goal of a top eight team ranking and an automatic bid to the NCAA Championships.

"We go all the way through six," Steinberg said. "We're not really weak in any spot. I think that Francisco (Rodriguez) is one of the top number one players in the nation, but our depth throughout is what is going to win matches for us."



Alabama has new men's and women's tennis coaches this year, Adam Steinburg handling the men's program and Jenny Mainz in charge of the women's team. The Bama men are expected to be very strong, while the women's team is having to overcome some tough developments.

Barry Fikes Photo



In addition to Lopez and Rodriguez, Alabama returns juniors Weylu Chang, Ariel Rivero, Alin Taranga and Karim Zaher, sophomores Mason Snider and Greg Thompson. Newcomers Graydon Oliver and Jimmy Chambers round out the 1998 roster.

Steinberg has already seen some measure of success from the Tide. Oliver and Lopez brought home the 1997 Rolex Region III doubles title and Rodriguez made it to the semifinals of the ITA National Clay Court Championship, the first leg of the collegiate grand slam.

The always competitive and tough SEC is what drew Steinberg to Alabama. "Being involved in the SEC in tennis has not disappointed me," Steinberg said. "I knew that this was a great tennis conference and being a part of it is tremendous. For the players, it's great to be in this league because it gives them great motivation in practice because they know what they are up against. That's something that really hasn't been there in the schools I've worked with in the past. It was sometimes hard to get players up for schools we knew we could beat. Here, every time out the door, it's a tough opponent."

**M**ainz came to Alabama looking for a similar challenge. A former Florida State assistant coach, she came to Alabama after two years at Iowa. The challenges offered by nurturing a program and coaching in the SEC were the kind that drove the San Antonio, Texas native.

"At this level everyone is talented, everyone has the resources and everyone wants to win," Mainz said. "It comes down to who puts in the time and effort on a daily basis - who wants it and is willing to make that sacrifice everyday. That means working during the summer, over Christmas break, every day, every practice."

Mainz should have inherited a squad loaded with returners and talent. When Jim Tressler left the Tide for a job with NIKE, Inc. in December, he turned over a top-notch squad to assistant coach Michelle Morton. Morton in turn shepherded the Tide through the season and into a berth in the NCAA Championships, where the Tide fell in the second round to a veteran Harvard team. When the former Iowa head coach accepted the job, Alabama was in the top 20 with its top-four athletes returning. Before Mainz's hiring was even announced, the complexion of her team began to change tremendously.

Alabama's number one player, Bali Camino, announced before the hiring of Mainz, that she was leaving to move closer to home, and into a spot on the Florida Gators' tennis team. Then junior-to-be Amanda Ballinger, who held down number four singles during her sophomore campaign, decided to leave The Capstone for personal reasons unrelated to tennis. As if that wasn't bad enough, sophomore sensation Dominique Glinzler, slated to take over the number one singles spot this year, tore

the anterior cruciate ligament in her knee during pre-season drills and freshman stand-out Selia Mathew had to have shoulder surgery to clear up some existing problems.

In less than six months, Alabama had sustained a massive amount of damage. Mainz remains undeterred. She came not to coach certain athletes, but to coach the Crimson Tide. Her unflagging positive attitude is one of the keys that have carried Alabama through a tumultuous summer and fall and into the dual match season.

Her roster holds just six names, and unlike Steinberg, she has no margin for injury or mistake. But like Steinberg, she has some powerful assets that point to success maybe not tomorrow, but certainly in the near future and for a long time. Chief among those assets is Assistant Coach Jen Hyde, who was Mainz's assistant with the Hawkeyes before coming South and joining the Tide.

"Jen knows how hard you have to work at this level to succeed, but she also knows that you have to have fun in whatever you do or you are not going to be successful," Mainz said.

In addition to new coaches, Alabama added three freshmen, all talented, all ready to step into the lineup right away. But to Mainz youth doesn't mean giving up on the past. "We're a young team, but we're not starting over," Mainz said. "We're building on the foundation that has been built here by some very good teams and coaches. We are taking the legacy left to us and moving it forward."

The foundation of Alabama's success this year, will depend on how the old and the new blend together. Alabama has three returners-senior Tania Fabiani, junior Jill Breslin and Glinzler. Rookies Kerry Emes, Mathew and Laura Taylor join the veterans.

The key to Alabama's success this year lies in immediate production of the Tide's newcomers and the veterans stepping up in both effort and accomplishment. Both those, especially in the SEC, are hard things to ask. But the signs are there that success may come sooner rather than later for this edition of the Tide. Taylor and Breslin both knocked off ranked opponents during the fall and Glinzler's return from knee surgery has gone quicker and smoother than expected.

If everyone makes it back in time for the season and remains healthy, the season, though trying, could be a success. The voters in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association poll are suspending judgement. The Tide, long a fixture in the top 30, does not appear in those ranks in the latest poll. Mainz believes though. She knows that Alabama will return to those ranks and rise back into the top 20 and then top 10. There is no doubt in her mind.

"It's going to be tough this year," Mainz said. "But nothing worth having comes easy. If we believe in ourselves and the goals of the program, then we will be fine. We will get better every day and every year."

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# Tide Must Close Fine Recruiting Year

by Kirk McNair

The news is excellent as Bama football coaches near end of recruiting year

Cheating. Lying. Taking advantage of young people. The men in charge being roundly criticized, even by their supporters.

A day in President Clinton's White House?

No, just the trials and tribulations Alabama's football coaches must go through in the recruiting wars.

Problems notwithstanding, the Crimson Tide appears to be having an excellent recruiting year. The next phase will come to a close on or about Wednesday, February 4, Signing Day. That doesn't completely end things because it is possible that a signee or two might be added after that signing day and because the overall process does not begin until the signees are academically eligible and in training camp next August. Indeed, part of the recruiting activity centers on prospects who are not expected to be academically eligible. The goal of the recruiters in such cases is to be able to place the prospect in a suitable junior college, one that will protect the interests of the university when (and if) the player becomes eligible in two years.

While Alabama is doing very well, Bama recruiters most finish strong. In the past, there have been all sorts of rankings of each school's recruiting efforts. This year the rankings started in December, schools being ranked on the basis of which high school and junior college stars were even considering the schools. Throughout the recruiting process, Bama, which has had a number of early commitments from highly-regarded prospects, has been ranked among the nation's best.

Part of the reason for Crimson Tide giddiness is those high-profile prospects who announced so early for Bama. Quarterback Tyler Watts of Pelham, regarded as among the nation's best, got the speculation over with almost before it could begin by committing in early September. Since then he has been an active recruiter for the Crimson Tide, even making at least one unofficial visit to Alabama to urge prospects to join him at Bama. Sometimes a player who commits early sees his stock go down, but Watts has continued to be ranked the number one quarterback in the South, one of the top half dozen in the nation, and the number one overall prospect in Alabama.

Watts had an amusing story for the



Tyler Watts, the prep All-America quarterback from Pelham High School, was an early commitment to Alabama and is one of the primary reasons this is considered an exceptional recruiting year for Bama.

*Birmingham Post-Herald*, which kept him atop its Ten Most Wanted list. He said that his commitment had one desired effect in that other schools did not recruit him anymore. He said he got one brief telephone call from Tennessee in October. And then in January, he said, he got a letter from Kentucky saying that he was not longer considered a prospect for the Wildcats. "I was heartbroken," Watts deadpanned.

Watts is one of six players who have committed to Alabama who was named to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* top 100 in the South. Only Georgia has more such players committed. In addition to Watts, linebacker Kindal Moorehead of Memphis Melrose, of-

fensive lineman Bart Raulston of Sylvania, tailback Ahmaad Galloway of Millington, Tennessee, fullback/linebacker Marvin Constant of Tuscaloosa Central, and tailback Shontua Ray of Montevallo were on the newspaper's list.

Although there could be some adjustment in the numbers, going to the final week of January the Tide was at 21 on commitments. And one of those, defensive tackle Todd Whitmore of Ranburne, was already in school and taking part in Bama's off-season conditioning work. Whitmore, 6-5, 280, played at East Mississippi Community College and was eli-



gible for mid-year transfer. Although some reports listed Whitmore as counting on last year's limit of 25 signees, he counts on this year's allotment.

A school that is recruiting top players is going to have some disappointments because it means the coaches are going after the players who have attractive options. Alabama's first priority has always been to first of all win the recruiting war within the state of Alabama, and the Tide appears to be on its way to that quest. In most ratings, it appeared Alabama would get most of the top ten, perhaps has many as eight of the consensus top ten in the state. One of those still uncommitted going to the last week of January was defensive lineman Rashad Moore of Huntsville Johnson. He had just cancelled his visit to Auburn and was deciding between Alabama and Tennessee. Linebacker Darius Gilbert of Oxford was also deciding between Alabama and Tennessee, and Bama would have seemed to have an advantage on the Vols since Gilbert cancelled his visit to Knoxville.

One of Alabama's "losses" (loss is the wrong word since one can't lose what one doesn't have) was defensive lineman Robert Malone of Prichard Blount. Alabama has not had good recruiting luck in the Mobile area in recent years, but the move of Blount's head coach to Alabama State University is believed by many to be important for Alabama being back on an even footing in recruiting there. Malone had been reported by recruiting services as saying he was 80 per cent sure he would sign with Alabama a few days before he announced for Auburn.

There are several reasons there could be some adjustment in that commitment number. Earlier in the year the Tide had a commitment from defensive lineman Don Page of Foley. Then Page announced he would make a visit to Auburn, always insisting he was still committed to Alabama. He insisted he would make his official visit to Alabama after his visit to Auburn "no matter what happens," and said there was (depending on the media report) 60-75 per cent certain to sign with Alabama. But a funny thing happened. Page visited Auburn and then announced he was committed to the Tigers. Bama coaches didn't even bother to call him.

Tide coaches had a great deal more trepidation about another player who had committed to Bama and then made another recruiting trip. Freddie Milons, the outstanding all-around athlete at Starkville High School, announced that he had selected Alabama (which wants him for a wide receiver) over Florida (which recruited him as a cornerback). However, then Milons made a recruiting trip to Ole Miss, which has been successful in enticing players previously committed elsewhere.

Milons is an important part of the recruiting picture for Bama because he is a fast wide receiver. The Tide was also involved with speedy Willie Northern of Quincy, Florida, but most were listing Northern as a "secret commitment" for

## Capsule Look At Tide Recruiting

(Schools in parenthesis of uncommitted prospects are those considered to be Alabama's top competition)

### Quarterback (2 to be signed)

Luke Tucker, 6-0, 180, Fayette County—COMMITTED

Tyler Watts, 6-3, 210, Pelham—COMMITTED

### Running Back/Fullback (2-4 to be signed)

Jonathan Adams, 6-1, 188, Osceola, Ark. (Arkansas)

Marvin Brown, 6-0, 247, Hyattsville, Md., DeMatha—COMMITTED

Ahmad Galloway, 6-0, 200, Millington, Tenn., Central—COMMITTED

Shontua Ray, 5-10, 185, Montevallo—COMMITTED

### Tight Ends (1-2 to be signed)

Terry Jones, 6-3, 255, Tuscaloosa Central—COMMITTED

Johnovan Morgan, 6-4, 260, Miami, Fla., Carol City (Kansas State, West Virginia)

### Wide Receivers (2-3 to be signed)

Sam Collins, 6-2, 175, Fayette—COMMITTED

Damien Jones, 6-2, 190, Prichard Vigor (professional baseball)

Freddie Milons, 5-10, 175, Starkville, Miss.—COMMITTED

Willie Northern, 6-2, 180, 4-4, Quincy, Fla., Shanks (Auburn)

### Offensive Linemen (4-6 to be signed)

Lanis Baxley, 6-6, 250, Waynesboro, Ga., Burke County—COMMITTED

Kenric Lott, 6-6, 310, Blackshear, Ga., Jones (Miss.) Junior College—COMMITTED

Ray Marshall, 6-5, 310, Montevallo—COMMITTED

Marico Portis, 6-4, 290, Prichard Vigor—COMMITTED

Bart Raulston, 6-8, 305, Sylvania—COMMITTED

James Smith, 6-6, 300, Homestead, Fla (Ohio State, Florida)

Brett Williams, 6-7, 320, Kissimmee, Fla., Osceola (FSU, Florida)

### Defensive Backs (2-3 to be signed)

Eric Locke, 5-9, 175, Murfreesboro, Tenn., Riverdale (Tennessee)

Miguel Merrit, 6-2, 210, Hopkinsville, Ky., CC of San Francisco (Arizona State, Cincy)

Reggie Myles, 6-1, 185, Pascagoula, Miss., (Mississippi State, LSU)

Phillip Weeks, 6-3, 185, Lake Butler, Fla, Union County—COMMITTED

### Defensive Linemen (4-6 to be signed)

Charles Grant, 6-4, 240, Colquitt, Ga. Miller County (Georgia, FSU, Auburn)

Cornelius Griffin, 6-4, 285, Brundidge, Pearl River JC (Auburn)

Octavius Jackson, 6-3, 242, Miami Carol City (FSU)

Mario Monds, 6-5, 340, Fort Pierce, Fla., Hutchinson (Kansas) JC—COMMITTED

Rashad Moore, 6-4, 260, Huntsville Johnson (Tennessee)

Will Overstreet, 6-4, 252, Flowood, Miss., Jackson Prep (Mississippi)

Derrick Sanders, 6-5, 240, Sandersville, Ga., Washington County—COMMITTED

Conner Stephens, 6-5, 230, Ackerman, Miss. (Mississippi State)

Todd Whitmore, 6-5, 280, Ranburne, East Mississippi CC -- SIGNED

### Linebackers (4-6 to be signed)

Marvin Constant, 6-1, 247, Tuscaloosa Central--COMMITTED

Victor Ellis, 6-3, 215, Chattanooga, Tenn., Red Bank - COMMITTED

Darius Gilbert, 6-3, 201, Oxford (Tennessee)

Canary Knight, 6-4, 245, Tallahassee, Fla., and CC of San Francisco (FSU, California)

Aries Monroe, 6-3, 225, Tallahassee, Fla., Godby (FSU, juco)

Kindal Moorehead, 6-4, 276, Memphis Melrose—COMMITTED

Theo Sanders, 6-3, 220, Birmingham Shades Valley -- COMMITTED

Christopher Woods, 6-3, 256, Orlando, Fla, Jones (FSU)



Auburn. And Bama may be flirting with signing Damien Jones of Prichard Vigor, but Jones is expected to be a high draft choice in baseball and unlikely to attend college. Bama's only other committed wide receiver is Sam Collins of Fayette County, and Collins is labeled a "possession" receiver, which is something of a code for "slow."

Alabama has received some criticism on the internet and on talk radio shows for electing to sign Collins' Fayette County teammate, quarterback Luke Tucker. Lance's younger brother is expected to be redshirted as a freshman. However, at least one recruiting service ranked him as the number five quarterback in the South.

**T**here has been discussion of Alabama working some deals in case the Tide gets into a numbers problem in recruiting. First of all, it should be noted that every year it appears Alabama is not going to have enough scholarships for all the players who want to sign with the Crimson Tide, but almost every year Bama has come up short of the recruiting limit on signing day.

Nevertheless, if Alabama is able to sign more than 25 this year, it could be because it expects a signee like Damien Jones to not take advantage of the scholarship, but rather to take professional baseball money. (An athlete can be a professional player in one sport and participate in college athletics, but he cannot be on scholarship, so if Jones became a pro baseball player and also wanted to play football at Alabama, he would have to pay his own way and, thus, would not count against the 25 limit.)

It could also be because it would be possible to get one of those committed to Bama to agree to wait until January, 1999, to enter school and to count on next year's limit. Tennessee had several players who will be

## Signing Day Updates

The 'BAMA HOTLINE will have hourly updates on Signing Day, February 4, beginning at 10 a.m. Call 1-900-876-1979. Each update will list the previous hour's signees before giving the entire updated signee list. We will also predict when the next signees will be signing. The final update of the day, listing all signees, will be at 7 p.m. CST. Cost of the call is \$1.59 per minute. Those under 18 must have parental permission.

signed on scholarships this year after sitting out last year. Among those who have been speculated as perhaps willing to wait are Luke Tucker and offensive lineman Lanis Baxley of Burke County High School in Waynesboro, Georgia. There is also a scenario whereby Terry Jones, Jr., the tight end prospect from Tuscaloosa Central, might go to Alabama for year on his own, the reason being that his father is an employee of The University and thus young Terry would qualify for a substantial tuition discount.

There have even been unsubstantiated reports that Watts' family offered to pay his way his first year so Alabama might have another scholarship to land, for instance, another offensive lineman to protect Watts or another wide receiver to snare his passes.

**T**here is no shortage of possible players Alabama could attract to fill out the final spots on its recruiting wish list. Wide receiver prospects Northern and Jones made official visits to Bama, and most considered Bama the leader for unannounced in-state stars Gilbert and Moore.

Bama brought in a couple of junior college stand-outs for official visits. Community College of San Francisco went 11-1 last year, in no small part because of the defensive play of two Southerners. Canary Knight is a

6-4, 245-pound linebacker/defensive end who is originally from Tallahassee and who is considering California, Alabama and his hometown Florida State. Miguel Merritt is a 6-2, 210-pound strong safety/linebacker who was first team junior college All-America with seven interceptions. He's originally from Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and is considering Alabama, Arizona State and Cincinnati.

Bama already had commitments from three of the top players in Tennessee and was considered the leader for a fourth, all-around star Eric Locke of Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro. the 5-9, 175-pounder who could be a wide receiver or cornerback, was thought to be deciding between Alabama and Tennessee.

Bama had a chance to land as many as four of the top players in Mississippi, although it appeared that three of those would be a great success. In addition to the commitment from Milons, Bama was thought to be the leader for defensive back Reggie Myles of Pascagoula and in contention for defensive lineman Conner Stephens of Ackerman. Another defensive lineman, Will Overstreet, made an official visit to Tuscaloosa, but he was considered almost certain to commit to Mississippi, the alma mater of his parents.

The best player in Arkansas, Jonathan Adams of Osceola, was listed by many as favoring Arkansas over Alabama, but there was reason to believe that Bama was very strong with Adams. His coach, Clinton Gore (no kidding), said he would visit Arkansas State the final weekend in January before announcing.

Bama wasn't very likely to get offensive lineman Brett Williams of Kissimmee, Florida, who is considered to be favoring Florida State, but the Tide still had a shot at offensive lineman James Smith of Homestead, Florida.

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# 1998 Alabama Football Depth Chart By Class

Here is a look at the 1998 projected Alabama football roster by class. Remember, this is not an exact depth chart. Also, it is possible, even likely, that some returning players will be at new positions. This depth chart does not include every player who will be out for spring practice. And our projection of the positions of those prospects who have committed to Bama is certainly possible to change.

## Offense

Position	Senior	Junior	Soph	Redshirt Frosh	Frosh
Split End		Hall Buchanan		McAddley	Milons
Left Tackle	Samuels				Raulston Baxley
Left Guard	Spree Brasseal			Barfield	
Center	Brodie		Hogan Babcock		Portis
Right Guard		Moore McDonald			
Right Tackle		Lott	Cuthbert Kinnebrew		Marshall
Tight End	Crutchfield		Draper	Yount Joiner	T. Jones
Quarterback	J.D. Phillips	Mollicone	Long	Zow	Watts Tucker
Fullback	Madden Teague		McClintock		Brown
Tailback	Alexander		Richard Bohanon	Cox	Galloway S. Ray
Flanker	Jackson Allen	Vaughn Bowens			Collins
Placekicker	Cunningham	Pflugner	Diaz Dismukes Kemp	Barron	

## Defense

Left End	Hood			S. Williams	
Left Tackle		Forge Whitmore	Matthews K. White Stennis		
Right Tackle		Carter Monds	Redmill	Staten	D. Sanders
Right End		Grimes Waggoner	K. Smith		
Weakside Linebacker	Trevis Smith E. Hunter	Harris			T. Sanders
Middle Linebacker	Edwards Wagstaff		Carroll		Moorehead Constant
Strongside Linebacker	Stanley Tito Smith				Ellis
Left Cornerback	Bryant Feagin		Slay	Reier	
Right Cornerback	A. Hunter Winston	Hill	Bailey Barnes		
Strong Safety	Foust	G. Phillips	Horne J. Jones	Fielding	
Safety	Sigler	Dixon Warren	Spencer Rowell		Weeks
Punter	Pope	Morgan	Kellen		



# 1997-98 Alabama Winter Sports Schedules

## Men's Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time (CST)
89	Marathon Oil (Exh.)	72
65	Slovakia Chemosvit (Exh.)	50
81	North Texas	61
64	@ Minnesota	63
105	Jacksonville State	72
Puerto Rico Holiday Classic @ San Juan		
60	Georgia Tech	62
79	American University PR	88
60	Wichita State	58
81	Texas A&M	64
61	@ Boston University	53
66	Florida International	68
71	Tulane @ Birmingham	76 (OT)
85	Alabama State	61
All-College Tournament @ Oklahoma City		
77	Sam Houston State	58
61	Oklahoma	79
52	Mississippi State	56
60	@ LSU (Jefferson-Pilot)	57
63	Ole Miss (CBS)	74
69	Vanderbilt (Jefferson Pilot)	72
40	@ Auburn (Jefferson Pilot)	94
67	Kentucky @ Louisville	70
70	@ Arkansas	77
Jan. 28	Tennessee	7:00
Feb. 4	Auburn	7:00
Feb. 7	@ Ole Miss	TBA
Feb. 11	@ South Carolina (Jeff Pilot)	7:00
Feb. 14	Florida	7:00
Feb. 18	@ Georgia	TBA
Feb. 21	LSU (Fox SportSouth)	5:00
Feb. 25	@ Mississippi State	TBA
Feb. 28	Arkansas (Jefferson Pilot)	3:00

Southeastern Conference Tournament  
March 5-8 @ Atlanta TBA

## Men's Swimming

Date	Opponent	Time (CST)
81	Delta State	30
64	Northeast Louisiana	47
Oct. 24-	Collegiate Aqua Sports	All Day
Oct. 25-	@ Fort Lauderdale, Florida	All Day
Oct. 30-	Diving World Trials	All Day
Nov. 1	@ Athens, Georgia	
87	LSU	154
Nov. 14-16	Auburn Invitational	All Day
Dec. 4-	United States Open	All Day
Dec. 6	@ Indianapolis, Indiana	
Jan. 2-	Georgia Diving	All Day
Jan. 4	@ Athens, Georgia	
70	Georgia	177
109	South Carolina	127
Jan. 24	@ Florida	10:30
Feb. 7	@ Auburn	11:00
Feb. 15-	SEC Diving	All Day
Feb. 17	@ Gainesville, Fla.	
Feb. 18-	SEC Championships	All Day
Feb. 21	@ Gainesville, Fla.	
March 7	Last Chance @ Auburn	All Day
March 26-	NCAA Championships	All Day
March 28	@ Auburn	
April 22-	US Diving	All Day
April 26	TBA	

## Women's Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time (CST)
82	Baltic All-Stars (exh.)	55
88	Shelen of Russia (exh.)	68
	Women's Pre-Season NIT	
91	Furman	41
66	@ Nebraska	74
	Hawaii Invitational @ Honolulu	
91	Marshall	62
58	Iowa State	61
77	Indiana	70
104	Samford	43
94	Akron	53
Leggs Classic @ Las Cruces, New Mexico		
87	Stephen F. Austin	89
74	Elon	49
62	@ Florida	70
St. Joseph's Invitational @ Philadelphia		
79	Boston College	70 (OT)
69	St. Joseph's	74 (OT)

64	@ South Carolina	54
62	Auburn	46
90	@ Arkansas	102 (OT)
82	@ Mississippi	62
85	Mississippi State	69
74	@ Northwestern State	68
Jan. 24	Kentucky	7:00
Jan. 29	@ LSU	7:00
Feb. 1	@ Tennessee (SportSouth)	2:00
Feb. 3	LSU	7:00
Feb. 5	North Carolina-Charlotte	7:00
Feb. 8	Georgia (ESPN2)	4:00
Feb. 11	@ Auburn	TBA
Feb. 14	Florida	
Feb. 18	@ Georgia Southern	6:00
Feb. 22	@ Vanderbilt	2:00
Southeastern Conference Tournament		
Feb. 26-March 1 @ Columbus, Georgia TBA		

## Women's Swimming

Date	Opponent	Time (CST)
68	Delta State	39
68	Northeast Louisiana	33
Oct. 24-	Collegiate Aqua Sports	All Day
Oct. 25	@ Fort Lauderdale, Florida	
Oct. 30-	Diving World Trials	All Day
Nov. 1	@ Athens, Georgia	
105	LSU	135
Nov. 14-	Auburn Invitational	All Day
Nov. 16		
Dec. 4-	United States Open	All Day
Dec. 6	@ Indianapolis, Indiana	
Jan. 2-	Georgia Diving	All Day
Jan. 4	@ Athens, Georgia	
96	Georgia	156
145	South Carolina	97
Jan. 24	@ Florida	10:30
Feb. 6	@ Auburn	6:00
Feb. 15-	SEC Diving	All Day
Feb. 17	@ Gainesville, Fla.	
Feb. 18-	SEC Championships	All Day
Feb. 21	@ Gainesville, Fla.	
Feb. 28	Last Chance @ Auburn	All Day
March 19-	NCAA Championships	All Day
March 21	@ Minneapolis, Minnesota	
April 22-	US Diving	All Day
April 26	TBA	

## Gymnastics

Date	Opponent	Time (CST)
192.3	@ Minnesota	192.925
195.65	Georgia	196.55
193.825	@ Auburn	190.45
Jan. 31	Penn State	7:00
Feb. 7	Florida	7:00
Feb. 14	@ Georgia	6:00
Feb. 20	@ Kentucky	6:30
Feb. 27	Alabama Invitational	7:00
(Arizona State, Massachusetts, North Carolina State)		
March 6	Penn State & LSU @ LSU	7:00
March 14	Utah State	7:00
March 21	SEC Championships	
	@ Baton Rouge	
April 4	NCAA Central Regional	
April 16-	NCAA Championships	
April 18	@ Los Angeles	

## Men's Indoor Track

Date	Event	Result
Jan. 16-	@ Clemson Indoor	2nd of 5
Jan. 24	@ LSU Purple Tiger	
Jan. 30-	Rocky Mountain Cup	
Jan. 31	@ Colorado Springs, Colorado	
Jan. 31-	Terrier Classic	
Feb. 1	@ Boston	
Feb. 13-	Butler Invitational	
Feb. 14	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	
Feb. 28-	SEC Championships	
March 1	@ Baton Rouge	
March 6-	USATF Championships	
March 7	@ Atlanta	
March 13-	NCAA Championships	
March 14	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	

## Women's Indoor Track

Date	Event	Result
Jan. 17	Saluki Invitational	
	@ Carbondale, Ill.	6th of 11
Jan. 24	@ LSU Purple Tiger	
Jan. 30-	Rocky Mountain Cup	
Jan. 31	@ Colorado Springs, Colorado	
Jan. 31-	Terrier Classic	
Feb. 1	@ Boston	
Feb. 7	Barnett Bank Invitational	
	@ Gainesville, Fla.	
Feb. 13-	Butler Invitational	
Feb. 14	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	
Feb. 28-	SEC Championships	
March 1	@ Baton Rouge	
March 13-	NCAA Championships	
March 14	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	



# 1998 Alabama Spring Sports Schedules

## Baseball

Date	Opponent	Time
Feb. 13	Houston	7:00
Feb. 14	Houston	4:00
Feb. 15	Houston	2:00
Feb. 17	Nicholls State	7:00
Feb. 18	Nicholls State	2:00
Feb. 20	Ark-Little Rock	7:00
Feb. 21	Ark-Little Rock	2:00
Feb. 22	Ark-Little Rock	2:00
Feb. 24	Louisiana Tech	7:00
Feb. 25	Louisiana Tech	2:00
Feb. 27	@ Cal-Fullerton	9:00
Feb. 28	@ Cal-Fullerton	9:00
Mar. 1	@ Cal-Fullerton	3:00
Mar. 3	Mercer	7:00
Mar. 4	Mercer	2:00
Mar. 6	Florida	7:00
Mar. 7	Florida	2:00
Mar. 8	Florida	2:00
Mar. 11	@ South Alabama	6:30
Mar. 13	@ Georgia	6:00
Mar. 14	@ Georgia	1:00
Mar. 15	@ Georgia	1:00
Mar. 17	Eastern Illinois	7:00
Mar. 20	@ South Carolina	6:00
Mar. 21	@ South Carolina	6:00
Mar. 22	@ South Carolina	1:00
Mar. 24	Southern Miss	7:00
Mar. 27	Mississippi State	7:00
Mar. 28	Mississippi State	2:00
Mar. 29	Mississippi State	2:00
Mar. 31	@ Southern Miss	6:30
April 1	Samford	7:00
April 3	@ Arkansas	7:00
April 4	@ Arkansas	2:00
April 5	@ Arkansas	1:00
April 7	North Alabama	7:00
April 8	Jacksonville State	7:00
April 10	Tennessee	7:00
April 11	Tennessee	2:00
April 12	Tennessee	2:00
April 15	@ Troy State	7:00
April 17	@ LSU	7:00
April 18	@ LSU	4:00
April 19	@ LSU	1:00
April 21	South Alabama	7:00
April 22	@ UAB	6:05
April 24	Ole Miss	7:00
April 25	Ole Miss	2:00
April 26	Ole Miss	2:00
April 29	UAB	7:00
May 1	@ Vanderbilt	7:00
May 2	@ Vanderbilt	2:00
May 3	@ Vanderbilt	2:00
May 8	Auburn	7:00
May 9	Auburn	2:00
May 10	Auburn	2:00
May 14	SEC Tournament	
May 17	@ Hoover Met	
May 21	NCAA Regionals	
May 24	@ campus sites	
May 29	College World Series	
June 6	@ Omaha	

All times central

## Softball

Date	Opponent	Time
Feb. 13	Arizona State Classic	
Feb. 15	@ Phoenix, Arizona	
Feb. 27	Bama Bash	
Mar. 1	(Alabama, Austin Peay, Centenary, Eastern Kentucky, Northeastern Illinois, UT-Chattanooga, Texas Tech, Wisconsin)	
Mar. 5	@ South Florida Classic	
Mar. 8	(Alabama plays Ball State, Florida, Iowa State, Michigan, Temple)	
Mar. 10	@ Samford	5:00
Mar. 11	Siena	5:00
Mar. 13	Arkansas	5:00
Mar. 14	Arkansas	1:00
Mar. 17	Louisiana Tech	2:00
Mar. 21	@ Kentucky	1:00
Mar. 22	@ Tennessee	1:00
Mar. 25	Georgia Southern	5:00
Mar. 27	@ Georgia Tech Invite	
Mar. 29	(Alabama plays Mercer, Middle Tennessee, New Mexico, South Florida)	
Mar. 31	@ Florida	6:00
April 4	Mississippi	1:00
April 5	Mississippi	1:00
April 8	@ Auburn	2:00
April 17	@ Miss. State	6:00
April 18	Miss. State	4:00
April 20	Georgia Tech	3:00
April 25	South Carolina	1:00
April 26	Georgia	1:00
April 29	Auburn	5:00
May 2	LSU	1:00
May 3	LSU	1:00
May 8	SEC Tournament	
May 10	TBA	
May 15	NCAA Regionals	
May 17	campus sites	
May 21	College World Series	
May 25	@ Oklahoma City	

Other than tournament games all games are doubleheaders. Home games played at Muny Sokol Park except Bama Bash at Bowers Park.

All times central

## Men's Tennis

Date/UA	Opponent	Time/ Opp.
7	Troy State	0
6	Georgia State	1
Jan. 30	Southern Miss	2:30
Feb. 5-8	National Indoor	
Feb. 13	@ Georgia Tech	1:30
Feb. 14	Northwestern @ Atlanta	12:00
Feb. 19	National Team Indoor	
Feb. 22	@ Louisville	
Feb. 25	@ UAB	2:30
Mar. 2	Miami	2:30
Mar. 7	Georgia	1:00
Mar. 9	Florida	2:30
Mar. 14	@ Tennessee	12:00
Mar. 17	Kentucky	2:30
Mar. 19	Blue-Gray	
Mar. 22	@ Montgomery	
Mar. 25	@ Miss. State	4:00
Mar. 28	@ Ole Miss	1:00
Mar. 31	@ Arkansas	2:00
April 2	@ LSU	2:30
April 5	South Carolina	1:00
April 9	@ Auburn	4:00
April 11	Vanderbilt	12:00
April 16	SEC Championships	
April 19	@ Auburn	
May 8	NCAA Regional	
May 10	TBA	
May 15	NCAA Championships	
May 24	@ Athens, Ga.	

All times central

## Men's Outdoor Track

Date	Event
Mar. 26-29	Alabama Relays
Mar. 30	Miami Outdoor
April 4	
April 9	@ Sea Ray Relays
April 11	@ Knoxville, Tenn.
April 17	Mt. Sac Relays
April 19	@ Walnut, Calif.
April 23-25	@ Penn Relays
May 3	Alabama Open
May 14	SEC Champs.
May 17	@ Gainesville
June 3	NCAA Championships
June 6	@ Buffalo, N.Y.

## Women's Track

Date	Event
Mar. 20-21	@ Clemson Relays
Mar. 26-29	Alabama Relays
April 4	@ Georgia Invite
April 9	@ Sea Ray Relays
April 11	@ Knoxville, Tenn.
April 17	Mt. Sac Relays
April 19	@ Walnut, Calif.
April 24-25	@ Drake Relays
May 3	Alabama Open
May 13	@ Tennessee Open
May 22	SEC Champs.
May 24	@ Gainesville
June 3	NCAA Championships
June 6	@ Buffalo, N.Y.

## Women's Tennis

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 23-26	@ Georgia Invite	
Jan. 31	Southern Miss	11:00
Feb. 5	National Indoor	
Feb. 8	@ Dallas	
Feb. 13	UAB	1:00
Feb. 14	Georgia Tech	11:00
Feb. 19	National Team Indoor	
Feb. 22	@ Madison, Wisc.	
Feb. 24	South Alabama	2:00
Feb. 28	@ South Carolina	12:00
Mar. 1	@ Clemson	12:30
Mar. 6	@ Florida	3:00
Mar. 8	Kentucky	10:00
Mar. 12	Wake Forest	1:00
Mar. 14	@ Tennessee	11:00
Mar. 15	@ Vanderbilt	1:00
Mar. 21	Ole Miss	11:00
Mar. 25	Auburn	1:00
Mar. 29	Georgia	10:00
Mar. 31	@ South Florida	1:00
April 2	@ Florida Inter.	2:00
April 4	@ Miami	10:00
April 8	@ Miss. State	2:30
April 10	@ Arkansas	2:00
April 11	LSU	10:00
Apr. 16	SEC Championships	
Apr. 19	@ Lexington, Ky.	
May 8	NCAA Regionals	
May 10	TBA	
May 15	NCAA Championships	
May 22	@ South Bend, Ind.	

All times central

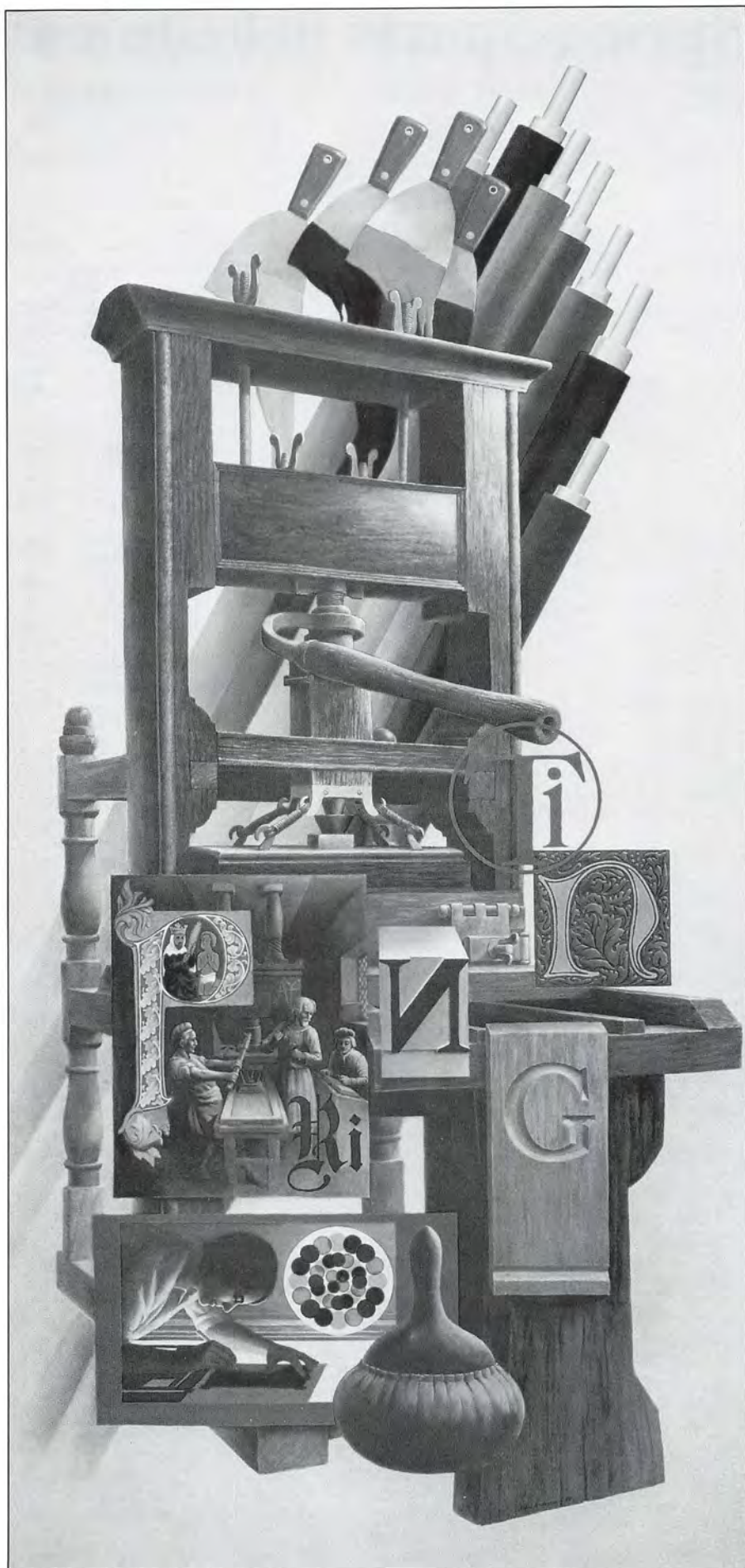
## Women's Golf

Date	Event
Feb. 27	Florida Lady Gator
Mar. 1	@ Gainesville
Mar. 13	LSU Fairwood
Mar. 15	@ Baton Rouge
Mar. 24	Rainbow Invitational
Mar. 26	@ Oahu, Hawaii
Apr. 10	Women's Southern
Apr. 12	@ Athens, Ga.
Apr. 17	SEC Championships
Apr. 19	@ Riverchase, B'ham
May 7	NCAA Regional
May 9	@ Duke
May 20	NCAA Championships
May 23	@ Madison, Wisc.

## Men's Golf

Date	Event
Feb. 7	Florida Invitational
Feb. 8	@ Gainesville
Feb. 18	John Burns
Feb. 20	@ Honolulu
Feb. 28	Mercedes Invitational
Mar. 2	@ Jacksonville, Fla.
Mar. 20	Spring Invitational
Mar. 22	@ Montgomery
Apr. 10	Billy Hitchcock
Apr. 12	@ Auburn
Apr. 17	SEC Championships
Apr. 19	@ Athens, Ga.
May 14	NCAA East Regional
May 16	TBA
May 27	NCAA Championships
May 30	@ Albuquerque, N.M.





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Mike DuBose

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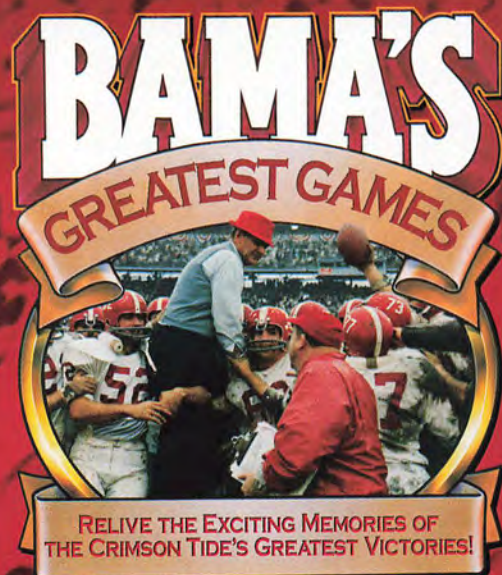
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